

# Acknowledgments

---

I have traveled in many climes and civilizations, not to mention times, in the writing of this book. Fortunately, I have had many companions in my journey. Some of their names can be found in the notes; others I wish especially to acknowledge by explicit reference here. For their help in my understanding of China, I am indebted to Peter Perdue, James Pusey, and Dominic Sachsenmaier, as well as to Jonathan Spence, who was kind enough to take time in his busy life to answer a specific query. For insights into Islam, I thank Mehdi Mozaffari and Mohammad “Behrooz” Tamdgidi; for Japan, John Dower; for Russia, Loren Graham; for France, Jeff Ravel. László Kontler and Hugh West were helpful in regard to Georg Forster, sending me papers on him and his role in the eighteenth-century debates about civilization. On the topic of civilization itself, I drew with profit upon the thinking and writings of Said Arjoman, Stephen Mennell, and Mehdi Mozaffari.

As every author knows, working with a publisher can make for a different sort of “travel” experience. I have been extraordinarily fortunate in having as my companion in this journey Norris Pope, my editor at Stanford University Press. I cannot

with whom to work on a book. His talents were first recommended to me by Sophia Rosenfeld, and I wish to thank her and to say that she did not “gild gold” when she described him to me: quite the contrary. In the actual editing of the manuscript I wish to thank John Feneron, the in-house editor, who supervised the overall effort, and Peter Dreyer, the external editor, whose care and erudition have saved me from many errors of both fact and expression.