Acknowledgements

First and foremost, my thanks to Bill Cope for his courage to put my ideas into practice. Not really knowing much about me, Bill entrusted an entire conference to me. Of course he knew that I would be supported by the team at Common Ground. I want to specifically thank Kathryn Otte, Jacqueline Chen, H. Tony Stavely and their team who made the co-ordination of the conference in Beijing like a walk in the park. Next I must thank all those who were plenary speakers at the conference and those who helped in encouraging their participation. Many names will not be here but I would like to thank especially 吴青 [WÚ qīng], 张志强 [ZHĀNG Zhi qiáng], James R. Pusey, Anne Wang Pusey, Merrill David, and Greg Clingham. Of course my appreciation also goes to all conference delegates who went to China despite the threat of Bird Flu. Last, but not least, I want to thank all my contributors for their sympathy and patience as I edited this volume, and also my readers during the long revision process. My special thanks go to one individual in particular who had to read a really poor translation. In a book of a little over 113,000 words in two languages and with Romanization, there are bound to be mistakes. The fault is entirely mine.