

Preface

How will Northeast Asia's economic and security institutional architecture evolve? Predicting the future is always hazardous business, often left to seers and wizards. Yet at the same time we believe that by examining the recent history of Northeast Asia from a theoretically informed perspective, while we may not always correctly forecast the future, this exercise can still provide useful insights for policy-makers and academics. To this end, this book examines how critical changes over the last twenty or so years have transformed the institutional organization of the region. Specifically, we consider the impact of what we term the "triple shocks": the Cold War's end, the Asian financial crisis, and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We examine how the impact of these key changes has played out in the context of China's rise, Japan's economic problems, American neglect of Asian developments, the fall of the Soviet Union and subsequent resurgence of Russia, and the changing dynamics of the two Koreas.

Examination of changes in Northeast Asia's institutional landscape is not new. Yet we believe that this book breaks fresh ground by providing a theoretical framework that facilitates the exploration of key countries' foreign economic and security policies in a comparable manner. By examining the significant variables that influence national responses to these individual shocks, and through consideration of the impact of cumulative changes in the region in the post-triple shocks period, we believe that we can better gauge likely future institutional trends in the region.

The East Asia Foundation (EAF), based in Seoul, Korea, has generously supported this book. With its financial support, we were able to hold a conference at the University of California at Berkeley, co-sponsored by the Berkeley APEC Study Center (BASC), in December 2005. This opportunity to discuss first drafts of our papers, and our subsequent interactions, have greatly benefited from the support of the EAF. It has proven instrumental in allowing us to clarify our thoughts

and assemble this volume. Aside from the academic exchange supported by this funding, this meeting also allowed us to create a network of ties among the scholars who either contributed chapters to this volume or who commented on this work.

Our meeting in Berkeley was extremely fruitful as a result of the comments that the book's contributors received from Crystal Chang, Myung-koo Kang, Jin-Young Kim, Elaine Kwei, Kenji Kushida, Hong Yung Lee, and Jehoon Park. Without their incisive criticisms and suggestions for improvement, this book would have been much the poorer. We would like to particularly single out the help we have received from Seung-Youn Oh, who not only provided logistical and organizational support for the conference, but also lent her expertise as a discussant.

The work of the staff at BASC proved crucial. Three former and current project directors—Jonathan Chow, Edward Fogarty and Kristi Govella—have shepherded the transformation of rough conference papers to carefully edited and structured book chapters. They not only furnished the contributors to this book with the collated comments of the discussants, but more importantly, with their own set of comments that pushed all of us to work harder and meet their high standards. Kristi's management of the publication process has greatly eased the editors' workload. In this task, she has been ably supported by the work of Robert Chen, Cindy Cheng, Ross Cheriton, Nathan DeRemer, Michelle Haq, Vaishnavi Jayakumar, Andrew Kim, and Anne Meng, undergraduates who work at BASC under the auspices of the Berkeley Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program.

We would like to thank Niels Peter Thomas of Springer Verlag for supporting the publication of this book. We also hope that this volume will be a valuable edition to the book series entitled *The Political Economy of the Asia Pacific* that Vinod K. Aggarwal is editing for Springer.

We, of course, remain responsible for any errors or omissions.

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Northeast Asia

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