RISE OF THE ASIAN GIANTS:
DRAGON–ELEPHANT TANGO

While the rise of China has long been an accepted fact of international economic and political relations, the latter-day rise of India as an economic power has provoked intense global interest in the question of what the emergence of the two together portends for the rest of the world. This book presents a Chinese assessment of how China and India see themselves each in relation to the other, focusing on their shared and divergent experiences of modernization and economic reform and the ramifications thereof in respect of each country’s role in global affairs. Escaping the geo-political idiom of competition and rivalry between emerging Asian giants, the book seeks to understand the parallel, complementary, convergent and divergent development experiences from a more self-consciously geo-civilizational perspective, contextualizing developments in both the short-term framework of independent nationhood, against the more immediate background of nationalist and anti-imperialist struggles, and in the long durée of shared, continental histories.

Substantive chapters focus on the agrarian sector, where both countries face similarly acute problems of enhancing productivity and bettering the lives of huge rural populations; on industry, where China has long established herself as the ‘factory of the world’ while India has seen substantial expansion only in the service sector; and on the Information and Communication Technology industries, where India’s achievements have attracted world attention and where China and India have achieved a certain complementarity in hardware and software production respectively. These experiences are the basis for the realization of the ideal of ‘Chindia’ in the new Asian century.

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements
Preface (ZUO XUEJIN)
Author’s Foreword
Editor’s Foreword
Introduction to Chinese Volume (PAN GUANG)
CHAPTER I: Nature, land and people
CHAPTER II: Historical odysseys
CHAPTER III: Agricultural development
CHAPTER IV: Industrial development
CHAPTER V: Information era
CHAPTER VI: International standing
CHAPTER VII: Conclusion

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