

## Acknowledgments

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hidden behind a temple and who pointed out the place where once stood a small Dutch fortress—and many more.

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should be required reading for Asianists and students of imperialism everywhere. Read Wills, dammit!

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When I first went to Taiwan in 1989, I lived with a Taiwanese family, who helped a young American in ways too numerous (and sometimes embarrassing) to name. Of all the family members, I became especially close to Jack and Rachel Liu (劉昭平 and 胡蕊芳). They took me to a doctor after I hitchhiked my way into a head-on collision with a bus in the narrow Taroko Gorge; got me into Shida's Mandarin Training Center after they found that I had arrived without properly applying; and generally babysat a twenty-one-year-old who had no idea what he'd gotten

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himself into. Since then, we have grown ever closer. Each time I (and, now that I am married, we) come to Taiwan, they provide a home away from home.

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It was either yesterday or today that I he would come out with a voiced bilabial sputtering, and tonight it developed into true sound play. These 3 things appeared:

1. sputtering through tight lips
2. sticking tongue through while /ae/
3. blowing air out through hole at right side of mouth. Lips tight.  
Vowel /u/-[bvu]

Suffice to say that my mother loves languages, and she passed that love on to me while I was still sputtering through tight lips. If she had not, I would not have been able to write this book. Originally I thought I would become a scientist, like my father, but after my second year of titration and rat sacrifice I told him I planned to abandon biology for the humanities. He replied that the problems of the world are caused by humans and we need historians now more than ever before. His words have echoed in my ears ever since. This book won't help solve global warming, overfishing, the depletion of water deposits, or mass extinctions, but I do believe, with him, that we scholars and scientists have a duty to choose big topics and try to reach as many people as we possibly can. (This won't be a best-seller, so I'm not obliged to give you and Mom your 10 percent, but whatever royalties I receive I'll put toward your mocha lattes—I calculate that it'll amount to about one each per year.)

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flights to and from Penghu, and walks through the old Chinese town near the ruins of the Dutch fortress in Tainan. In fact, it was with and through her that I came really to love Taiwan, and I dedicate this book to her.