

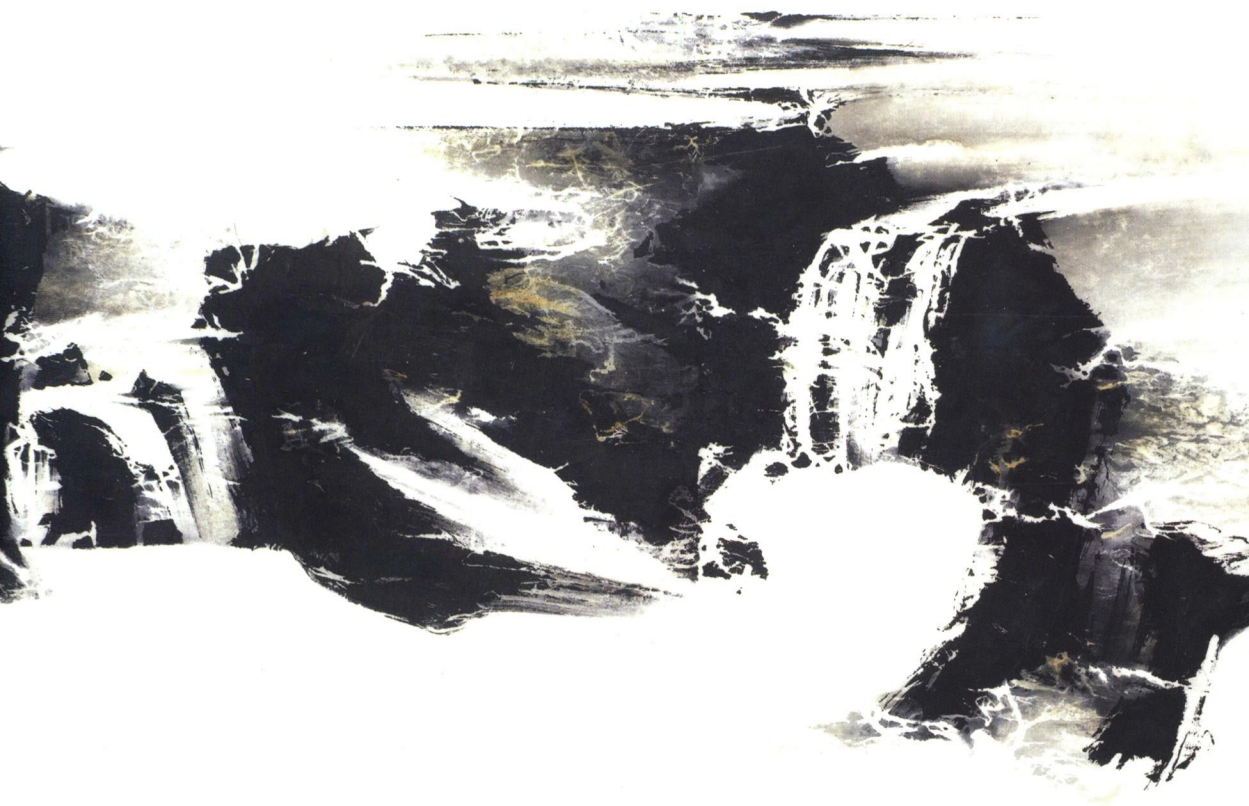
A NEW LITERARY
HISTORY *of*
MODERN CHINA

EDITED BY
DAVID DER-WEI WANG



"A New Literary History of Modern China stands far apart from the standard state-of-the-field collection. The publication of this book, with its range and breadth of scholarship, is an event without precedent in the field of modern Chinese literary studies. Some of the essays read like polished vignettes while some are whimsical, others build swiftly to a punchy thesis, and others again offer distilled wisdom on a crucial topic. The brevity of the essays holds the reader's attention at a keen pitch — and more importantly incites more reading. A monumental volume."

— Margaret Hillenbrand, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



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WANG

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A NEW LITERARY HISTORY OF

Modern China

Edited by DAVID DER-WEI WANG

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This volume represents the collective effort of more than 140 scholars, writers, and translators in the Chinese, Sinophone, and Sinological worlds. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to them—contributors from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, France, Sweden, Canada, and the United States—for their willingness to participate in a highly unconventional project. This project would not have come into being without the benefit of their critical and imaginative input, as well as their ingenious writing.

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Due to format constraints, sources are not referenced in footnotes but are often mentioned in the text itself. More source details are provided in select bibliographies at the ends of the essays. To all references the authors of these essays are deeply indebted.

Two leading senior scholars passed away as this volume was being prepared. Professor C. T. Hsia (1921–2013) pioneered modern Chinese literary studies in Western academia, and his *A History of Modern Chinese Fiction* (1961) remains the most provocative work to date. Professor Patrick Hanan (1927–2014) was one of the most erudite scholars in late imperial and early modern Chinese literature, and a first-rate Sinologist. I was extremely fortunate to have been able to work with both of them, enjoying their guidance and friendship, at Columbia University and at Harvard University. Hsia's contribution to the field is a topic within this volume, and Hanan wrote the final piece of his career for it.

This book is dedicated to my mentor, Professor Arthur E. Kunst (1934–2013). His scholarship, cosmopolitan mind, and passion for literature and life are remembered forever.

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