

Acknowledgments

This book is fundamentally a result of my research conducted when I was attached to the History Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Malaya as a visiting researcher between 1987 and 1989. During that time I was usually seated either at the Central Library of the university or at the Arkib Negara Malaysia (Malaysian National Archives) reading various historical documents. I am very grateful to the staff of these three institutions.

During my stay in Kuala Lumpur, I visited Singapore a few times in order to get relevant information which was not available in Kuala Lumpur. In Singapore I was especially obliged to a prominent historian, Mr. Chui Kwei Chiang, who was affiliated with the Chinese Language and Research Centre of the National University of Singapore at that time. He kindly taught me the whereabouts of the necessary materials including the *Nan Chiau Jit Pao* and the *Zhan You Bao* (Combatants' Friend). I also want to thank the staff of the microfilm section of the National University of Singapore Central Library who kindly allowed me read its invaluable collection of Malayan newspapers.

During my stay in Malaysia I was also given an opportunity to visit Britain for two weeks. There I rushed to read documents kept at the Public Record Office as well as at the British Library. I appreciate the kind service provided there, including sending photostat copies to me after I returned to Kuala Lumpur.

All the chapters contained in this book were first published in a Japanese-

language book entitled *Tōnan Ajia kakyō to Chūgoku* [Southeast Asian Chinese and China], edited by Hara (IDE, 1993). For this English version, some portions have been revised and supplemented.

In the editing of this book, I am deeply indebted to two staff members of the IDE, namely Ms. Akiko Akemine and Mr. Yukio Saito. I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. William L. Swan, Mr. John Wisnom, and Mr. Tadatoshi Higashizono for their efforts in translating this work.

I would like to believe that this study stands firmly on historical facts. Nevertheless there most likely are still points that can be disputed. I would greatly appreciate any corrections or further suggestions.