Contents

Foreword by John L. Thornton vii
Acknowledgments xi
Introduction by Cheng Li xv

Part I
Reconstructing China’s Social Ethics
1 “New Principles”: Toward a New Framework of Chinese Social Ethics 3
2 A Chinese Theory of Conscience: The Contemporary Transformation of Traditional Morality 26

Part II
Historical and Sociological Origins of Chinese Cultural Norms
3 The Selection Society 37
4 1905: The End of Traditional Chinese Society 54
5 Three Sources of Chinese Tradition and the Impetus for Cultural Renaissance 72
vi CONTENTS

PART III
The Transformation of Ethics and Morality in the PRC
6 The Red Guard Generation: Manipulated Rebellion and Youth Violence 83
7 From Mobilized Morality to Demobilized Morality: Social and Ethical Changes in Post-Mao China 97

PART IV
China’s Ongoing Moral Decay?
8 Moral Crisis in Chinese Society 119
9 Chinese People: Why Are You So Angry? 124
10 “Absurd Bans” and the Need for Minimum Moral Standards 128

PART V
Ethical Discourse in Reform Era China
11 Why Should We Repeatedly Stress the Principle of Life? 135
12 On Possible Ways to Contain the Corruption of Power 143
13 Challenging the Death Penalty 148
14 The Moral, Legal, and Religious Issues of Civil Disobedience 159
15 Ecological Ethics: Spiritual Resources and Philosophical Foundations 165

PART VI
Chinese Ethical Dialogue with the West and the World
16 The Possibilities and Limits of Moral Philosophy 189
17 The Intellectual Legacy of John Rawls 201
18 The Applicability of the Principle of Life to International Politics 208
19 What Are the Differences? And What Consensus? 220

Further Reading: The Writings of He Huaihong, 1983–2013 231
Index 237