

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book originated in a paper I prepared for a discussion at the Australian Federal Government's Office of National Assessments on the Japanese economy in September 2001. It metamorphosed into a larger and more theoretically driven paper delivered to my department (Political and Social Change) in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University (ANU) in April 2002. The final draft of the book was submitted to the publisher on 1 August 2002. Speed has been of the essence in writing the book given the urgency of understanding the political impediments to economic reform in Japan and the transience of Japanese prime ministerial office.

At several key points in writing this work, I have benefited greatly from the generosity of colleagues who willingly shared their ideas, advice and written papers. I owe a particular debt of gratitude to Ellis Krauss and Arthur Stockwin who unfailingly responded to questions and emails, and who read and commented on the page proofs. Llewelyn Hughes provided helpful observations and information while Toshio Takagi of the Menzies Library at the ANU was superb in supplying references and articles.

I could not have completed the manuscript by the deadline without the support of my intrepid research assistant Manabu Kawakatsu who all too frequently put aside his own work in order to complete his assigned tasks for me. I am also indebted to the American Embassy in Tokyo for making available materials from the Japanese press and to the Japanese Embassy in Canberra for providing information and explanations. I would also like to thank Peter Drysdale of the Australia–Japan Research Centre at the ANU who was kind enough to review the manuscript in the early stages, Maree Tait of Asia Pacific Press (APP) for backing the publication so strongly, the APP staff for producing the book so quickly, and Ben Kerkvliet of the Department of Political and Social Change for providing such a congenial environment in which to conduct research and write books.

I dedicate this book to my husband, Richard Mulgan, for his inestimable contributions to my personal and academic life.

Aurelia George Mulgan
October 2002