Preface

The USA in the People's Daily is designed to be a newspaper reader for the American student who has completed two years of modern Chinese. The fourteen selections included in the reader reflect how the USA was depicted in The People's Daily from 1990 to 1991. Since news quickly becomes outdated, we have selected commentaries and essays rather than news reports.

The fourteen selections are generally critical of, and even hostile to, American society as a whole. They cover four major issues: the education crisis, social injustice, human rights violations, and racial discrimination. The views expressed are not our own, but we believe their controversial nature will be pedagogically useful by provoking discussion and debate among students. In order to balance the views in The People's Daily, we have written an epilogue entitled "The USA in The People's Daily," in which we raise the question: If the USA is really as corrupt and undesirable as The People's Daily depicts it, why are there so many immigrants, including Chinese, who wish to remain in the USA?

Each selection is presented in both traditional and simplified characters, with a copy of the actual newspaper article attached. Each article is accompanied by a cartoon, which can be used as illustration as well as in exercises. Students can be asked to describe the cartoon using the new vocabulary and patterns they have just learned. We have also prepared a vocabulary glossary, sentence patterns annotated in English, and suggested discussion topics with each selection.

In addition to the fourteen glossed selections, we have also selected eight unglossed essays which can be used as supplementary reading materials.

Mr. Fan-shen Wang's calligraphy has greatly enhanced the appearance of this book, and our heart-felt appreciation goes to him. We are grateful to Ms. Claudia Schreib Li, Mr. Ryan O'Connell and Mr. Matthew Roberts who have
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