Preface

*All Things Considered* is a modern Chinese language textbook designed to bridge the gap between intermediate and advanced Chinese. It is targeted at students who have completed intermediate courses but are not yet prepared for the complexity of advanced Chinese.

The textbook consists of two parts. Part One contains twelve dialogues; Part Two is a selection of Chinese newspaper articles from 1999-2000. The articles offer an introduction to contemporary Chinese society.

A new feature in *All Things Considered* is that several topics appear in both dialogue and essay forms. By covering the same topic twice, students will be able to not only learn the vocabulary and grammatical structures better, but also to see clearly the difference between speaking and writing in Chinese. And by keeping a portion of the textbook in dialogue form we emphasize speaking and reading equally; many advanced books, by contrast, assume that students already speak Chinese well enough and therefore ignore the spoken part of the language altogether. The overall proficiency level required for this textbook is lower than that for the previous advanced textbooks published by the Princeton University Press. We believe such a textbook is badly needed in the field.

The articles that we have selected are all related to contemporary issues in China, and their focus is on everyday life rather than the weighty political and social essays often seen in other advanced textbooks. Some of the topics are controversial; we believe this will evoke students’ interest and increase their participation in class discussions. Following the tradition of our earlier textbooks, the text is arranged in both simplified and traditional characters, and vocabulary and sentence patterns accompany the text. Each lesson also contains a series of exercises that teachers will find useful for in-class work or homework assignments.

The draft of *All Things Considered* was written in the spring of 2000 and field-tested over the following year in Princeton Chinese language classes and the Princeton in Beijing summer program. Students consistently gave it high marks in their end-of-year evaluations.

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