

# **KAZAKH TRADITIONS OF CHINA**

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**Awelkhan Hali  
Zengxiang Li  
Karl W. Luckert**

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## Preface

When in 1986 Karl W. Luckert began traveling to China in search of partners for joint research in ethnology and history of religions, among Chinese minorities, Li Zengxiang, a professor of Turkic languages at Central Nationalities University, responded. Hu Tan, Chen Yongling, and Wei Cuiyi were benevolent superiors who opened paths for our cooperation.

A grant procured by Mahmoud Abu Saud, in 1988, has helped Awelkhan Hali and Li Zengxiang begin field investigations in the Ili Prefecture. Over the years, Awelkhan Hali became our point man in dealing with most of the Kazakh sources. He wrote much of the first draft in Chinese, while Li Zengxiang furnished introductory historical materials, and portions for the chapter on marriage. The latter also was our interpreter between Kazakh and Chinese materials, as well as between Chinese and English renditions. Luckert initially was responsible for instigating the project and for lead topics and questions that kept the team working in the same general direction. Later he rewrote and expanded the manuscript, and set type. Everything presented in this volume has been translated, renegotiated and rewritten several times, in various languages and scripts.

At the Chinese side, Muhtur Abilqaq and Wang Jianmin have read the manuscript and have given good advice, while at the American side Linda and Jeffrey Ruff have helped reading the proofs. Over the years, Luckert has had available the good linguistic help of graduate assistants

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