Korean and Literary Chinese (K. hanmun) used in Korean sources are romanized according to the McCune-Reischauer system. When citing secondary sources, I follow the romanization style used by the sources’ authors or editors. For Chinese and Japanese proper nouns and terms, I have used the Pinyin and Hepburn systems, respectively. Birth, death, and reign dates are given for historical figures; at times, the sobriquets are named as well. In translated passages and quotes from other sources, my interpolations are within square brackets.

A glossary of names and terms, including Chinese characters, appears in the back matter of the book followed by a list of abbreviations for some of the primary sources cited in the notes. All translations are my own, unless otherwise indicated.