I was told as a graduate student that historians write a book to forget about a topic. Since 1995 I have become more inclined to the notion that, in the academic and foreign policy communities, a massive conspiracy exists to prevent scholars from ever escaping a subject on which they have published. Surely I would never have written this book had it not been for the numerous invitations I have received—and accepted—to deliver papers on the Korean War. All but three of the eight chapters herein began as conference papers, and because I have few regrets about seeing this project through to fruition, I want to thank those people, conspirators or not, for their invitations. They include Professors Bonnie Oh and David I. Steinberg of Georgetown University, Professor Lew Young-Ik of Yonsei University, Professor H. W. Brands of Texas A&M University, and Professor Chae-jin Lee of Claremont McKenna College. I also wish to thank Brigitta van Rheinberg of Princeton University Press, whose enthusiastic response to my proposal of the project gave me the last needed boost to see it through and whose critical reading of the first draft of the manuscript contributed substantially to its improvement; Chen Jian
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RETHINKING
THE KOREAN WAR