Preface

This project was born of the multiple problems we found in the existing research and theory on relations between elite bureaucrats and capitalists. While an increasing number of scholars had identified this nexus as crucial to a variety of economic and political outcomes, the general and comparative work left much undone. Furthermore, existing arguments were so imbued with the suspicions of economists and Americanists that the question whether anything positive could come of close relations between business and the state rarely arose. Yet the question did come up with increasing frequency in the conclusions of dispersed empirical analyses of development in Asia and Latin America. Unfortunately, however, even studies that pointed to the benefits of collaboration rarely engaged one another.

This book began as an attempt to start a dialogue across disciplines and regional specializations. Ben Schneider drafted an initial agenda for discussion and began canvassing for potential participants. Sylvia Maxfield soon joined to help organize the first workshop, at Princeton University, in October 1993. We identified a small group of scholars who were already conducting research on business-state relations and invited them to relate that research to a common agenda and broaden their coverage of countries. Since the first meeting, the parallel projects of the participants proceeded; and books by Richard F. Doner and Ansil Ramsay, Peter Evans, Karl Fields, Michael Shafer, and Eduardo Silva have appeared or are on their way to publication. At a minimum, what distinguishes their contributions to this volume is the consistent engagement of a common theoretical agenda as well as

Preface

sustained debate with the sometimes divergent perspectives taken by other contributors.

The debates at the first workshop, as well as the subsequent evolution of the project, were greatly enhanced and enlivened by the comments of Caren Addis, Alice Amsden, Eva Bellin, Kent Calder, Jeffry Frieden, Gary Gereffi, Robert Gilpin, Robert Kaufman, Atul Kohli, Ziya Önis, Adam Przeworski, Dani Rodrik, Helen Shapiro, John Waterbury, and Carol Wise. Stephan Haggard and Michael Shafer came to that meeting as discussants, but we later persuaded them to develop their contributions into chapters. Gregory Felker assisted ably with logistics and, with Katrina Burgess, drafted rapporteurs' reports. We thank the International Studies Program at Princeton University, sponsored by Title VI of the U.S. Department of Education, for funding this meeting. Sylvia Maxfield organized the second workshop, at Yale University, in December 1994. We are grateful to the Yale Provost's Office, and Arline McCord in particular, for allocating money from the Kempf Fund to support the Yale meeting. Kathleen Rosetti's keen administrative skills eased the job of organizing it. Thanks also to discussants and commentators at the meeting: James McGuire, James Mahon, David Cameron, and Walter Molano.

The Center for International and Comparative Studies (CICS) at Northwestern University provided the home base for the final stages of this project. We are grateful to CICS and its director, Bruce Cumings, for financial and administrative support and to Christina van Wijnbergen for her invaluable assistance in putting together the final manuscript. Roger Haydon went well beyond the call of editorial duty in his long and unflagging association with this project. He came to our first meeting and ever since has been a steady source of advice, encouragement, good humor, and suggestions.

SYLVIA MAXFIELD

New Haven, Connecticut

BEN ROSS SCHNEIDER

Evanston, Illinois