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Book Review

Wen-kai Kung

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Ni, Zhengtai 倪正太 and Chen Xiaoming 陈晓明. *Zhonghua minguo zhi guan ci dian* 中华民国职官辞典 Hefei 合肥: Huang shan shu she 黄山书社, 1998. 631 p.

For years there has been a lack of complete dictionaries of government institutions and official titles of the Republican era. This has created inconveniences and obstacles for scholars and researchers studying this important period. Now Ni Zhengtai and Chen Xiaoming have filled this gap. Using the scant available information, and assisted by various colleagues and friends at the Second Historical Archives in Nanjing, Nanjing Library, and other institutions, they compiled this fine dictionary of government official titles and government organization names that existed during the era of the Republic of China,

The compilers define the era of the Republic of China as the period of thirty-eight years between the Wuchang 武昌 revolt in October 1911 and the inauguration of the Central Government of the People's Republic of China in Beijing on October 1, 1949. Because of the continuity of some official titles, this dictionary includes some official titles from the Qing dynasty that continued to be used in the Republican period. It also includes some Nationalist Government official titles that the government of People's Republic of China continued to use after 1949.

This dictionary mainly includes government offices and government official titles of the Provisional Government in Nanjing 南京临时政府(January–March 1912), the Beiyang Governments of the northern warlords 北洋政府 (March 1912–June 1928), the Military Government in Guangzhou 广州军政府(August 1917–1921), the Generalissimo Headquarters in Guangzhou 广州大元帅府大本营(1923–1925), and the Nationalist Government 国民政府(1925–1949). The compilers do not include government offices and government official titles of the Wang Jingwei 汪精卫 Government (1940 – 1944). Also excluded from this dictionary are government offices and government official titles of the Manchukuo Government (1931-1945) in Manchuria.

The dictionary includes official titles and government agencies of all levels from central government to provinces 省, counties 县, districts 乡, towns 镇, villages 村, precincts 里, and tithings 保甲. Altogether, there are 3,091 entries of varying length, depending on the importance of the office. Each entry gives the date of establishment, its structure, and functions. Entries are arranged according to the number of strokes in the first character.

Following the main body of entries, there are sixty-five very useful charts of government organizations that existing during this period. Each chart notes the year when the particular organization was created. A classified index to various governments and government organizations is appended to the end of the dictionary.

All East Asian libraries should have a copy of this valuable and useful dictionary. It will be an important reference aid for students and scholars for the study of government offices and government officials during the Republic of China, 1912–1949, one of the most turbulent periods of China's recent history. This period is important not only as a

significant segment of modern Chinese history but also as essential background for understanding contemporary Chinese government and politics. In compiling this dictionary Ni Zhengtai and Chen Xiaoming have made a great contribution to the study of this turbulent yet important era.

For the study of this period, users may also consult the following tools: *Beiyang zheng fu zhi guan nian biao* 北洋政府职官年表 by Qian Shifu 钱实甫, *Beiyang zheng fu zhong yao zhi guan biao* 北洋政府重要职官表 by Jin Rujie 金儒杰, and *Xinhai yi hou shi qi nian zhi guan nian biao* 辛亥以后十七年职官年表 by Liu Shoulin 刘寿林.

Wen-kai Kung, Yale University