This book would not be here without those who continuously supported me. I extend my utmost gratitude to two mentors of mine, Benjamin (Jerry) Cohen and Timothy J. McKeown. They patiently read and reread the manuscript and generously provided me with invaluable criticisms and suggestions. Their advice and encouragement was indispensable for the completion of my book. I am very grateful as a young scholar to have met these two academics with the greatest minds in their field and commitment to the highest standards in their scholarship. They have set for me a goal to aspire to throughout my professional career.

Generosity of many institutions and people there nurtured this project. Funding and fellowships from the Tinker Foundation, the Social Science Research Council (Japan Program), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, the Center for International Studies, as well as the School of International Relations at the University of Southern California, helped me at critical times. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Mexico and the World Bank provided me some independent research time while I was working for them full-time. Hitotsubashi University and its faculty greatly facilitated my fieldwork in Tokyo.

Many colleagues, teachers, and friends read the manuscript at its various stages. Three people in particular, Laurie Brand, John Odell, and T. J. Pempel, kindly read the entire manuscript and gave me valuable comments. I thank Karen Adams, Leslie Armijo, Chia-Shang James Chu, Eileen Crumm, Polly Diven, Kim Dietrich, Eileen Doherty, E. V. K. Fitzgerald, Benjamin Fordham, Jeffrey Frieden, Michael Fry, Nora Hamilton, Jonathan Hartlyn, Himmat Kalsi, Peter Katzenstein, Jeffrey Knopf, Abraham Lowenthal, Mathias Moersch, Ramon Moreno, Thomas Oatley, Louis Pauly, David Rapkin, Lars Schoultz, Barbara Stallings, Jonathan Strand, James White, Meredith Woo-Cummings, and three anonymous reviewers for their comments. I am also grateful to those in Japan who guided me and helped me gather information and conduct interviews: Nobuhiro Ashida, Masako Ayakawa, Kotaro Horisaka, Mitsuhiro Kagami, Hidesuke Kotajima, Sayuri Kuwabara, Ryo Oshiba, Hideo Sato, Masaharu Shimizu, Toru Yanagihara, and Daizaburo Yui. Of course, I appreciate the generosity of those who kindly gave me their precious time for interviews while I visited Japan and Mexico, as well as various parts of the United States. The assistance of Sung Jun Jo, Yong Wook Lee, Wendy Lords, and Andrew Manning significantly facilitated my research while I was teaching. Editorial
assistance by Leslie Wirpsa and helpful suggestions by the Senior Editor for Social Sciences of the University of Michigan Press, Ellen McCarthy, were invaluable.

Finally, I thank my family. This book is dedicated to my parents, Toru and Hiroko Nakai, who have had the misfortune of having such a rebellious daughter, but who have given her the maximum liberty to think and make decisions on her own. I am also very lucky to have another set of parents, James and Verdell Coleman. Ever since I was “adopted” by them as a foreign exchange student in high school, they and their four daughters have been so kind to make me and, later, my husband members of their family. Last but not least, Satoshi and Kay Katada deserve my deepest thanks. They have given me energy and confidence to go on. Satoshi has always been a patient listener and my best friend, and I thank Kay for being such a collaborative baby while I was managing this “double gestation.” Without their love and support, completion of this book would not have been possible.