

## Preface

Nations have been divided and reunified throughout history. Be the causes political, economic, cultural, racial, religious or otherwise, the process of division and reunification has usually been extremely painful for the people concerned.

Under different circumstances, Germany, Korea, and China were divided against the will of their people after World War II, and the wartime agonies of family separation and dislocation were prolonged. Of these three countries, Germany has already been reunited, while Korea and China remain divided. The different fates of the three countries may serve as empirical cases for political scientists to study national and international integration.

Additionally, countries that had previously suffered or are still suffering from national separation should be examined in order to broaden the scope of the study. In this regard, the experience of nations with sharp internal division, such as Belgium, Canada, and former Czechoslovakia, can provide scholars with different angles in the study of integration and disintegration. For this purpose, The International Political Science Association held its 1995 Roundtable Conference on Divided Nations in a Comparative Perspective in Taipei. This volume is a special issue of *The Annals*, consisting of the eleven outstanding papers presented at the conference. Among them, Professor Longin Pastusiak reviews the external factors of German division and reunification, and Professor Chenwen Tsai details the experience of two Germanies and its implications for the future of the relations across the Taiwan Strait.

Two other papers deal with the case of Korea. Professor Dalchoong Kim takes advantage of his personal experience and insights to illuminate on the efforts of Korea in the pursuit of national integration. Professor Ming Lee also reviews the process of the leadership transition in North Korea and the relations between the two sides on the Korean peninsula.

Furthermore, three papers are devoted to the discussion of China. Professor Chien-min Chao compares the reunification policies between mainland China and Taiwan; Professor Hsin-hsing Wu discusses the linkage between integration theory and the resolution of the China issue; and Professor Yu-shan Wu observes the impact of cross-Strait relations on Taiwan's growth pattern.

In addition, both Professors Maureen Covell and Jean Laponce focus on the Canadian case by examining the constitutional revision and institutional options for the multi-ethnicity state from a comparative perspective.

Professor Andre-Paul Frogner chooses Belgium as a laboratory for studying cooperation in a divided society. Professor Jan Skaloud describes in detail the case of former Czechoslovakia and how it dealt with the internal drive for a national divorce.

In the process of preparing the roundtable conference and publishing this volume, a number of people have provided great assistance and deserve my heartfelt gratitude. Many thanks go first to those who contributed their papers to the conference. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to Professors Carole Pateman, Jean Leca, Francesco Kjellberg and John Coakley for their sponsorship of the conference. Without their support and participation, the conference and this volume would not have been realized. Moreover, I am indebted to Professors Teh-fu Huang and Szu-yin Ho for their efforts in having this volume published in Taipei as scheduled. Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to all those anonymous people who provided assistance in the conference and helped edit the volume.

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