List of illustrations xi
List of contributors xiii
Acknowledgments xiv

1 Informal politics embedded in institutional contexts: elite politics in contemporary China 1
CHIEN-WEN KOU AND XIAOWEI ZANG
Introduction 1
The literature on Chinese elite politics: past and present 2
Institutionalization: concept and dynamics 3
The institutionalization of leadership replacement in China 6
Factional politics in transformation 9
The structure of this book 12

2 Entry into the Politburo of the CCP: a qualitative comparative analysis of institutionalization 22
HSIN-HAO-HUANG
Introduction 22
Political institutionalization and elite recruitment in China 22
Political promotion under institutional constraints: tournament mobility 24
Politburo turnover and institutional prerequisites for entry 26
Qualitative comparative analysis: fundamentals and application 29
Prerequisites and facilitating conditions for Politburo promotion 31
Conclusion 34

3 The roadmap of upward advancement for PLA leaders 42
YOU JI
Introduction 42
Meritocracy as a conceptual guide for analysis 43
Meritocratic criteria as the new rules of the game 46
The road map to the top 49
Conclusion 56
Contents

4 Paths to the top leadership in China: the case of provincial leaders
ZHIYUE BO

Age 65
Education 67
Ministerial leadership experience 73
Provincial experiences 77
Political origins 82
Central committee experiences 85
Factional background 88
Other factors 89
Conclusion: career paths to top provincial leadership 90

5 The rule-bound personnel turnover of China’s provincial leaders, 1993–2010
S. PHILIP HSU AND JHIH-WEI SHAO

Introduction 97
Literature review 98
Major parameters of the empirical analysis 100
Findings and discussion 107
Conclusion 118

6 Between the hierarchy and the market: managerial career trajectories in China’s energy sector
CHIH-SHIAN LIOU AND CHUNG-MIN TSAI

Introduction 124
Hierarchical control over managers in China’s energy sector 126
Intra-system rotation: managerial career trajectories in China’s electricity industry 128
Inter-system rotation: managerial career trajectories in China’s petrochemical industry 131
Conclusion 135

7 The rise of Youth League affiliates and their paths to the top
CHIEN-WEN KOU

Introduction 142
Organizational structure, definition, and sources of data 143
Upward-mobility patterns: promotion channels and average ages 145
Ages at rank promotions 148
Connections and institutional role 149
Youth League affiliates in Chinese politics in the next decade 154
Conclusion 157

Index 165