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## Acknowledgments

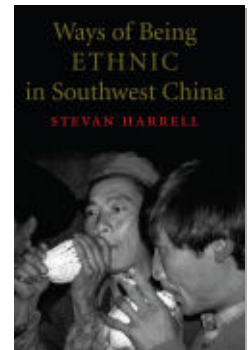
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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is the result of three periods of field research in Liangshan Prefecture and Panzhihua City, Sichuan, undertaken in collaboration with local research institutes in those areas, as well as with provincial institutions in Chengdu. Everywhere I went, people helped out, usually enthusiastically.

Pride of place here, however, goes to my own family, because they helped out wherever I went, by being so supportive in letters and phone calls, by sending little gifts, by sitting through endless slide shows and stories, and by being there in my absence and in my presence. My most heartfelt thanks to Barbara, Cyd, and Deb.

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There were also the local leaders—in Panzhihua in 1988, Party Secretary Han Guobin, Vice-Secretaries Zhang Boxi and Zhao Shihua; Vice Mayors Tan Huizhang and Li Zhixia; Cultural Bureau Chief and bridge partner Xiang Dexin; City Government Secretary General Tian Ruyi; and City Nationalities Commission Chair Li Chaoshen. At a time when taking on a high-profile foreign researcher was still something of a risk, these men opened many doors and

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were not even afraid to have a presumptuous foreigner criticize some of their policies.

In Xichang in 1993 and 1994, there was Prefectural Minority Affairs Commission Chair and Nationalities Research Institute Head Qubi Shimei, along with Vice-Head Jin Junpei and Secretary Wang Wenzhi. In Yanyuan there was the indefatigable Party Secretary Yang Zipuo (Atu Nzypuo), the modest but unbelievably knowledgeable Language Committee Head Hu Jin'ao (Luoho Tuha), and that most kindly host, Animal Husbandry Bureau Head Ma Wei'er (Mgebbu Vihly), as well as the young Vice Magistrate La Mingqing. All of them seemed to sense that, despite the gaps in our education, culture, and political ideology, we could work together, and they provided all kinds of encouragement and support.

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*Ways of Being*  
ETHNIC  
in Southwest China

