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#### **About the Author**

John Chaffee is Distinguished Service Professor of History and Asian and Asian American Studies and directs the Institute for Asia and Asian Diaporas at Binghamton University. He received his BA from Swarthmore College and his MA and PhD from the University of Chicago. He is the author of *The Thorny Gates of Learning in Sung China: A Social History of Examinations* (1985, 1995), *The Branches of Heaven: a History of the Sung Imperial Clan* (1999) and co-editor of *Neo-Confucian Education: The Formative Stage* (1989). He is currently writing a book on the history of the Muslim maritime communities on the southeast coast of China from the Tang to early Ming. He has taught at Binghamton University since 1980.

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