

Preface

For the Japanese, the two great powers, Russia and China, which face each other and have long common borders, are neighbors. During the Cold War period, the presence of these two powers shaped Northeast Asia. Although the Cold War has since ended, Russia and China have been reorganizing their economic and political systems, and Northeast Asia has changed dramatically. The presence of these powers is decisive for Japan even today. For the last decade, both have faced tremendous challenges inside and outside their territory, particularly on their common border under the unexpectedly transformed circumstances of the post-Cold War period.

The Slavic Research Center (SRC) hosted a seminar on 27 November 2002 to discuss recent Sino-Russian relations. The SRC invited from Beijing and Harbin two distinguished Chinese specialists on Russian affairs and international relations. The seminar discussed the political, economic, and military aspects of Sino-Russian relations and examined the differing views from the center and the border in China.

In addition to the two Chinese papers, this volume includes an article by IWASHITA Akihiro, presented at the 18th Russo-Japanese Far Eastern Academic Symposium held in Kyoto on 22 - 24 November 2002.

The editor wishes to express his gratitude to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for its Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research that funded a project entitled, "Comprehensive Study on Integration of Russia into the World Economy" in 2001-2005, and a second project entitled, "Russo-Chinese Regional Cooperation and Northeast Asia in the Post-Cold War Period" in 2001-2003.

IWASHITA Akihiro
Editor
Sapporo, April 2003