

# *Contents*

Acknowledgments	xī
<b>Part I Introduction</b>	
1 Chinese legislatures and political change	3
An indicator of change	4
A preview of the argument	6
A note on method	8
2 Origins of the NPC	12
Constitutionalism and national assemblies, 1898–1925	13
Legislatures under the Guomindang	17
Assemblies in the Jiangxi Soviet, 1931–4	20
Assemblies and New Democracy	22
<b>Part II The NPC under Mao</b>	
3 Development, doubts, and decline	29
“Healthy development”	32
“Reform in the air”	37
Crackdown and the 1957 NPC	41
Undermining the NPC	45
Failed mobilization	49
Closed sessions and renewed mobilization	51
The NPC by 1966	53
The NPC and the Cultural Revolution	55
Power struggle and the 1975 NPC	57
The NPC by 1976	59

4	Structural features	61
	Elections and deputy quality	61
	NPC size and physical setting	65
	Brief, yearly sessions and unanimous votes	66
	Legislative committees	69
5	The NPC in the political system	74
	Law making and influence over policy	74
	Supervision	77
	Representation	79
	Legitimacy, integration, mobilization – regime-support activities	84
 <b>Part III The NPC under Deng</b>		
6	Plenary sessions and policy discussions	91
	The 1978 NPC: Two parts continuity, one part change	92
	Legislative supervision and the 1979 NPC	95
	The 1980 NPC: Frank discussions and power struggle	98
	The 1981 NPC: The consequences of reform	105
	The 1982 and 1983 sessions	107
	The 1984 NPC: The path to reform	109
	The 1985 NPC: Socialist renewal and the costs of reform	111
	The 1986 and 1987 sessions	115
	Transparency and the 1988 NPC	117
	Austerity and elite conflict at the 1989 NPC	120
7	Structural reforms	125
	Electoral reform and deputy quality	127
	NPC size and bicameralism	137
	Upgrading plenary sessions	140
	Strengthening committees	148
	Conclusion	154
8	The NPC and systemic change	157
	Law making	158
	Supervision	164
	Representation	168
	Regime support	172
	Systemic change and the NPC	175

Abbreviations	180
Notes	181
Bibliography	234
Index	257