



## PART I

# A FIFTY-YEAR AMBITION



Far above the earth, into the blue,  
 You, wild Kunlun, have seen  
 All that was fairest in the world of men.  
 Your three million white jade dragons in flight  
 Freeze the sky with piercing cold.  
 In summer days your melting torrents  
 Flood the streams and rivers,  
 Turning men into fish and turtles . . .

To Kunlun now I say . . .  
 Could I but draw my sword o'ertopping heaven,  
 I'd cleave you in three:  
 One piece for Europe,  
 One for America,  
 One to keep in the East.  
 Peace would then reign over the world,  
 The same warmth and cold throughout the globe.

—Mao Zedong, "Kunlun," 1935