

# Contents

*Preface*, ix

*Acknowledgments*, xv

**Introduction East: The Improbable Country and the Graveyard of Empires**, 3

**Introduction West: The United States, Saddam, and al Qaeda, 1970s–2000**, 19

1. **Bush, bin Laden, and the Pinnacle of World Sympathy**, 55
2. **Rush to War**, 93
3. **Operation Iraqi Freedom**, 131
4. **Bush's War**, 169

**Epilogue: Obama**, 215

**Concluding Remarks and Legacies**, 227

*Notes*, 241

*Bibliography*, 257

*Index*, 267