## Contents

|   | Preface  | $x_1$ |
|---|--|-------|
|   | Acknowledgments  | χv    |
| 1 | Origins: Zoroaster, the Achaemenids, and the Greeks  | 1     |
| 2 | The Iranian Revival: Parthians and Sassanids   | 31    |
| 3 | Islam and Invasions: The Arabs, Turks,<br>and Mongols—The Iranian Reconquest<br>of Islam, the Sufis, and the Poets       | 67    |
| 4 | Shi'ism and the Safavids   | 123   |
| 5 | The Fall of the Safavids, Nader Shah, the<br>Eighteenth-Century Interregnum, and the<br>Early Years of the Qajar Dynasty | 145   |
| 6 | The Crisis of the Qajar Monarchy,<br>the Revolution of 1905–1911, and<br>the Accession of the Pahlavi Dynasty            | 185   |

## Contents

| 7 | The Pahlavis and the<br>Revolution of 1979                            | 221 |
|---|---|-----|
| 8 | Iran Since the Revolution: Islamic<br>Revival, War, and Confrontation | 259 |
| 9 | From Khatami to Ahmadinejad, and the Iranian Predicament              | 283 |
|   | Epilogue  | 295 |
|   |   |     |
|   | Notes   | 313 |
|   | Select Bibliography   | 333 |
|   | Index   | 343 |