Contents

List of figures

1

2

3

List of figures	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
Note to the reader	xii
Writing the history of (the) Pre-Islamic Arabs	1
Introduction 1	
Arabs and Arabias 3	
Tribes and states 7	
Sources of information 9	
Germans and Arabs 15	
Notes 17	
Between Rome and Parthia	23
Introduction 23	
Arab raiders, Arab nomads, and Arab kingdoms: an overview 25	
Arabs and the end of the Roman Republic 40	
Augustus and the Arabian Peninsula 42	
From Augustus to Severus 47	
Conclusion 57	
Notes 58	
Enemies, allies, and pretenders, AD 211-500	66
Introduction 66	
The end of Hatra, Sasanians in Oman, and Himyarites in Arabia Deserta 71	
Mara al-Qays: a late antique king at the edge of the Roman empire 79	
'So much for this dangerous tribe' 84	
The revolt of Mavia 88	
Religious communities 89	
Al-Hira 97	
Towards the sixth century: Kinda, Mudar, and Maadd 100	
Notes 103	

Arab statesmen in the sixth century Introduction 113	113
Before al-Harith, 500-528 120	
Aksum and Himyar: Najran, 523 123	
Al-Harith and Alamoundaros 125	
Abraha 140	
The death of Alamoundaros and the treaty of 561/2 142	
Al-Mundhir: statesman and warrior 144	
Al-Numan and the collapse of the Arab dynasty at al-Hira 154 Conclusion 158	
Notes 160	
Legacy	170
Introduction 170	
Measuring legacies 171	
Assessing late antique Arab leadership 182	
Tribal fixers and imperial power 195	
Notes 200	
References	207
Index	233