| Pro | eface | xii |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----|
| Glossary | | xv |
| Sig | gns and abbreviations | xix |
| 1 | The background | 1 |
| | Introduction | I |
| | The Indo-Iranians | 2 |
| | The old religion | 3 |
| | The cult | 3 |
| | The gods | 6 |
| | Death and the hereafter | 12 |
| | Conclusion | 16 |
| 2 | Zoroaster and his teaching | 17 |
| | Introduction | 17 |
| | Zoroaster and his mission | 18 |
| | Ahura Mazda and his Adversary | 19 |
| | The heptad and the seven creations | 21 |

| | Creation and the Three Times | 25 |
|---|---------------------------------------|----|
| | Death and the hereafter | 27 |
| _ | The establishing of Mazda worshin | 10 |
| 3 | The establishing of Mazda worship | 30 |
| | Introduction | 30 |
| | The Zoroastrian badge | 31 |
| | The times and manner of praying | 32 |
| | The seven festivals | 33 |
| | The oldest prayers | 34 |
| | The creed | 35 |
| | The liturgy and Yenhe hatam | 37 |
| | The Ashem vohu | 38 |
| | The hymns | 38 |
| 4 | The unrecorded centuries | 39 |
| | The early days | 39 |
| | Doctrinal developments | 40 |
| | Belief in a world Saviour | 42 |
| | The extension of purity laws | 43 |
| | Priests and worship | 46 |
| | Conclusion | 46 |
| 5 | Under the Achaemenians | 48 |
| , | The Medes, the Persians and Zoroaster | 48 |
| | The early kings | 50 |
| | Cyrus | 50 |
| | Cambyses | |
| | Darius the Great | 53 |
| | Xerxes | 54 |
| | Achaemenian palaces and tombs | 56 |
| | Fires and fire altars | 57 |
| | The divine beings | 60 |
| | Icons and temples | 61 |
| | • | 62 |
| | The priesthood | 65 |

| | The Zurvanite heresy | 67 |
|---|--|-----|
| | The Zoroastrian calendar | 70 |
| | The three world Saviours | 74 |
| | Practices of the faith | 75 |
| | The spread of Zoroaster's teaching | 76 |
| 6 | Under the Seleucids and Arsacids | 78 |
| | Alexander and Iran | 78 |
| | The Seleucids and Iran | 79 |
| | The rise of the Parthians | 80 |
| | Eastern Iranian borders: the Kushans | 83 |
| | Western Iranian borders: Armenia | 84 |
| | Fire temples and image shrines | 85 |
| | Funerary practices | 90 |
| | Developments in calendar and chronology | 92 |
| | The Avesta | 93 |
| | Developments in the scribal tradition | 95 |
| | Human affairs | 97 |
| | Next-of-kin marriages | 97 |
| | Ecclesiastical organization | 97 |
| | Unbelievers | 98 |
| | Conclusion | 100 |
| 7 | Under the early Sasanians | 101 |
| | The rise of the Sasanians | 101 |
| | Tansar, a religious propagandist | 102 |
| | Calendar changes | 104 |
| | Iconoclasm and sacred fires | 106 |
| | The rise of Kirder, the second great prelate | 109 |
| | The prophet Mani | III |
| | Zurvanism in the early Sasanian period | 112 |
| | Learning and writing | 113 |
| | The summit of Kirder's power | 114 |
| | Persian made the official language of all Iran | 116 |
| | Conclusion | 117 |

| 8 | During the mid Sasanian period | 118 |
|----|---|-----|
| | Upholding a Zurvanite orthodoxy | 811 |
| | The three great sacred fires | 123 |
| | Liturgical reform | 125 |
| | Religious literature and royal propaganda | 126 |
| | Calendar reform | 128 |
| | The Mazdakite movement | 130 |
| 9 | Under the later Sasanians | 132 |
| | Khosrow 'the Just' | 132 |
| | The written Avesta | 134 |
| | The Pahlavi literature | 136 |
| | Religious observances | 138 |
| | The last years of Zoroastrian Iran | 141 |
| | Conclusion | 143 |
| 10 | Under the Caliphs | 145 |
| | The Arab conquest of Iran | 145 |
| | Inducements and barriers to conversion | 147 |
| | Islam takes root in Iran | 150 |
| | Zoroastrians in ninth-century Iran | 152 |
| | Zoroastrians in tenth-century Iran | 156 |
| | Turkish and Mongol invasions of Iran | 161 |
| 11 | Under Il-Khans, Rajahs and Sultans | 163 |
| | Zoroastrian survival | 163 |
| | Manuscript copying and preservation | 165 |
| | The Parsi founding fathers | 166 |
| | Parsis in the twelfth to fourteenth centuries | 168 |
| | Parsis in the fifteenth century | 171 |
| | Irani Zoroastrians in the sixteenth century | 175 |
| | Parsis in the sixteenth century | 179 |

| 12 | Under the Safavids and Mughals | 177 |
|-------|--|-----|
| | Irani Zoroastrians under Shah Abbas: their beliefs | |
| | and practices | 177 |
| | Parsis in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries | 182 |
| | Eighteenth-century Parsi religious disputes | 188 |
| | Irani Zoroastrians in the eighteenth century | 190 |
| | The Parsi Panchayat of Bombay | 192 |
| | Eighteenth-century European studies of Zoroastrian | |
| | beliefs | 194 |
| 13 | Under the Qajars and British | 196 |
| 17701 | Christian missionaries and Parsi beliefs | 196 |
| | Parsi religious reforms | 199 |
| | Haug and West on Zoroastrian beliefs | 202 |
| | Theosophy and the Parsis | 204 |
| | Ilm-i Khshnum: Zoroastrian occultism | 205 |
| | Parsis and the printed word | 206 |
| | The Parsi practice of the faith | 207 |
| | Irani Zoroastrians in the nineteenth century | 209 |
| | Parsi calendar and religious reform in the early | |
| | twentieth century | 212 |
| 14 | In the twentieth century | 216 |
| | Urban Parsis | 216 |
| | Zoroastrians in modern Iran | 218 |
| | Parsis in independent India and Pakistan | 223 |
| | Recent interpretations of Zoroastrian belief | 224 |
| | International dispersion | 226 |
| 1 | Bibliography | 229 |
|] | Index | 237 |