## Contents

| Table of Contents                                  | i  |
|--|----|
| Acknowledgments                                    | v  |
| Translator's Prologue                              | vi |
| Author's Note                                      | ix |
| Introduction                                       | х  |
| CHAPTER I  | 1  |
| SASSANID'S HERITAGE                                | 1  |
| Sassanids' Cultural Monument                       | 2  |
| Sassanids' Worldview                               | 9  |
| Sassanid and Iranian Identity                      | 15 |
| Political History of the Sassanids                 | 20 |
| From the Beginning until Khosrow I                 | 20 |
| Khosrow I's Reforms                                | 40 |
| Khosrow I and the Caste System Society             | 45 |
| Hormizd IV   | 47 |
| Khosrow II   | 50 |
| CHAPTER II   | 57 |
| DECLINE  | 57 |
| The End of the Great War                           | 58 |
| Era of Fratricide and Elite Assassination          | 61 |
| The Final Years Preceding the Collapse             | 66 |
| Iran's Capital in Mesopotamia                      | 66 |
| Simultaneous Events in Arabia                      | 67 |
| Muslim Arabs' Economic Motives                     | 69 |
| CHAPTER III  | 75 |
| ARAB INVASIONS                                     | 75 |
| Initial Invasions                                  | 76 |
| Simultaneous Events in Iran                        | 79 |
| The Battle of Chains and its Backgrounds           | 81 |
| Occupation of Al–Hira and its Periphery by Muslims | 83 |
| The Battle of the Bridge                           | 84 |
| CHAPTER IV   | 87 |
| DOWNFALL   | 87 |

| Confrontation between the Iranian and Arab Armies                 | 88  |
|---|-----|
| The Battle of Al–Qādisiyyah                                       | 88  |
| About the Daylamites  | 98  |
| After Al–Qādisiyyah   | 100 |
| Ctesiphon   | 103 |
| The Battle of Jalula  | 107 |
| Garrisons and Barrack Cities of Kufa and Basra                    | 110 |
| The Raid by Sea   | 113 |
| Battles in Khuzestan  | 114 |
| The Battle of Nahāvand  | 118 |
| After Nahāvand  | 122 |
| The Fate of Umar ibn–Khattab                                      | 125 |
| CHAPTER V   | 129 |
| AFTER THE ARAB INVASIONS  | 129 |
| First Decades of the Occupation                                   | 130 |
| Calendar  | 130 |
| Money   | 131 |
| Administrative Language   | 132 |
| Collection and Distribution of Quran to the Caliphate Territories | 133 |
| Acceptance of Islam Amongst Iranians                              | 134 |
| Resistance and Compromise in Iranian Provinces                    | 136 |
| CHAPTER VI  | 139 |
| OVERALL CONDITION OF URBAN AREAS                                  | 139 |
| Fārs  | 140 |
| Istakhr   | 142 |
| Isfahan   | 144 |
| Āzarbāijān and Armenia  | 145 |
| Ray   | 147 |
| Sistān  | 148 |
| Gorgān and Tabaristan   | 151 |
| Daylam and Gīlān  | 154 |
| Khorāsān  | 155 |
| Transoxiana (Mā warā' Al–Nahr)                                    | 165 |
| Yazdgerd's Children and an Attempt to Regain the Country          | 172 |
| CHAPTER VII   | 175 |

ii

| Irānshahr and the Downfall of the Sassanid Dynasty         | iii |
|--|-----|
| CONSEQUENCES OF ARAB VICTORIES                             | 175 |
| Faith Proselytizing or Spoils Gathering                    | 176 |
| Book Burning   | 180 |
| Poll Tax (Jizya) and Tribute (Kharāj)                      | 181 |
| Kharāj   | 183 |
| Jizya  | 187 |
| Dhimmis, Mawālī, and Slaves                                | 191 |
| 1. Muslim Arabs  | 192 |
| 2. Non–Muslims   | 192 |
| 3. Mawālī  | 195 |
| 4. Slaves  | 199 |
| Arabs' Migration to Iran                                   | 200 |
| CHAPTER VIII   | 205 |
| SYNOPSIS   | 205 |
| Conclusions  | 206 |
| Main Causes of the Collapse of the Sassanids at a Glance   | 206 |
| 1. Depleted and Tired Army of Sasanian Iran                | 206 |
| 2. Numerical Inequality of Human Resources Involved in War | 208 |
| 3. Muslims' Great Materialistic Incentives                 | 210 |
| 4. Disability of Local Nobles                              | 211 |
| 5. The Intelligent Policies of the Islamic Caliphate       | 213 |
| 6. Disparity Amongst Iranian Commanders                    | 215 |
| 7. Shortage of Powerful Leadership among Iranians          | 217 |
| 8. Treason of Some Iranians                                | 219 |
| EPILOGUE   | 221 |
| Outlook  | 222 |
| Chronology Of the Sasanian Dynasty (224–651 CE)            | 225 |
| Index  | 228 |
| References in European Languages                           | 236 |
| References in Persian, Middle Persian and Arabic           | 243 |