

Contents

INTRODUCTION

Why History Matters 11

CHAPTER 1

Heavens Obscured 115

CHAPTER 2

Solomon's Peacock 533

CHAPTER 3

The Persian Takeover 899

CHAPTER 4

Gold and Iron 1277

CHAPTER 5

The World Like a Chariot Run Wild 16565

CHAPTER 6

Barbarians at the Gates 20505

CHAPTER 7

The Great Imperial Crisis 23939

CHAPTER 8

In the Name of the Prophet 27979

CHAPTER 9	
The Earth between Hope and Calamity	315
<hr/>	
CHAPTER 10	
The Mongol Shockwave	357
<hr/>	
CHAPTER 11	
Huddling in the Darkness	393
<hr/>	
CHAPTER 12	
A New Age of Islamic Conquest	433
<hr/>	
CHAPTER 13	
The Primacy of the West	475
<hr/>	
CONCLUSION	
Horror as a Friend	535
<hr/>	
NOTES AND REFERENCES	557
<hr/>	
FURTHER READING	601
<hr/>	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	615
<hr/>	
INDEX	617