

Contents

<i>List of maps</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>List of figures</i>	xii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiv
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xviii
1 Challenges of the subject and the sources	I
Objectives and methodology	2
The historical and geographical scope	3
Disciplinary perspectives	6
Table 1 Muslim expeditions and Byzantine actions: an overview	11
2 Historiographical hurdles	16
Comparisons and cautionary observations	16
Colonialist frames of reference	20
Deficiencies within anti-colonial critiques	24
A word about Muslim, Byzantine, and Latin sources	29
3 Fragmented geographical and logistical realities	41
Diversity of regions: an overview of micro-regions	48
Demographic and economic conditions	64
Ethnic and cultural affinity and conflict	66
4 Christian contexts in seventh-century North Africa	69
Pious hopes and anxieties	69
Monotheletism, Monophysitism, and orthodoxy	71
Trauma, hopes, and anxieties amid crisis	78
Impediments from religious scapegoating	83
5 The military heritage of Heraclius on the eve of Muslim military operations	92
Heraclius' familial ties with North Africa	94
Changing strategic culture	97

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	Rotation of military officers between North Africa and the east	100
	Byzantine raids, fortifications, and resistance	105
	Status of Byzantine defenses in southern Tunisia 641–7	107
	Apprehensions	113
6	The shock of Sbeitla	116
	The setting and strategic structures 642–7	116
	The battle: first raids and contested memory at Sufetula (Sbeitla)	123
	Autochthonous participation: the Mauri	126
	Enduring geographic and strategic significance of Sbeitla	128
	Rout and destruction: what we don't know	131
	Insights from the <i>Strategikon</i>	135
	Hypotheses about the location of the battle	140
	Consequences: humiliating terms and shattering of the Byzantine myth	143
7	Options for offensives and resistance	145
	Lapse and restoration of Byzantine authority in North Africa 647–65	146
	Puzzle of the <i>PAX</i> coinage	151
	Needed and wanted: help from Byzantium	152
	Byzantine interests	155
	Unrest among local and autochthonous North Africans	158
	Strategic options 641–65	160
8	The riddle of Constans II	166
	Constans II in historiography	167
	Imitation of his grandfather Heraclius	171
	Economic, military, and religious impediments	174
	Challenges for gathering intelligence	176
	New wave of shocks: Gigthis, Jirba	179
	Possible motives for assassination of Constans II	182
	Interrelationship of events	185
	Reevaluation of Constans II	186
	Constans II and controversies about Byzantine military institutional reforms	195
9	Muslim interests, calculations, and leadership	200
	Significance of Egypt and its failure to provide a model	201
	Formation of Early Islam and emerging perspectives on the struggle with Byzantium	202
	Islamic strategic culture and strategic options	206
	Mu'awiya's aggressive strategy	207
	Identifying the turning point: historiographical debate	210
	Assessing Muslim military leadership in North Africa: the campaigns of 'Uqba b. Nāfi' and Abū'l Muhājir	215

	<i>Contents</i>	ix
10	The shift to tribal resistance 669–95	220
	Collapse of Byzantine authority: imperial responsibility	221
	Campaigns of Abū'l Muhājir	226
	'Uqba b. Nāfi's replacement of Abū'l Muhājir and his expedition of 682/3	229
	Significance of resistance to 'Uqba b. Nāfi	237
	Contested memories of tribal leader Kasila	242
11	The fall of Carthage and its aftermath 695–711	247
	'Abd al-Malik b. Marwān, Hassān ibn al-Nu'mān, and the capture of Carthage	247
	The emergence of Kāhina	249
	Mūsā b. Nuṣayr pushes westward	253
	The Balearic Islands, Spain	257
	Termination of Byzantine resistance	261
12	The failures of two cities of Constantine	266
	Comparative analysis of conditions in North Africa and in the east	266
	North Africans' memories	274
	Fragmented resistance	278
	Failure to establish convincing identity of interests with North Africans	281
	Enduring constants	287
	Interrupted development?	295
	<i>Select bibliography</i>	301
	<i>Index</i>	335