The foundation of the Sasanian Empire in AD 224 established a formidable new power on the Roman Empire's Eastern frontier, and relations over the next four centuries proved turbulent. This book provides a chronological narrative of their relationship, supported by a substantial collection of translated sources illustrating important themes and structural patterns. The political goals of the two sides, their military confrontations and their diplomatic solutions are discussed, as well as the common interests between the two powers. Special attention is given to the situation of Arabia and Armenia, to economic aspects, the protection of the frontiers, the religious life in both empires and the channels of communication between East and West. In its wide chronological scope, the study explores the role played by the Sasanians in the history of the ancient Near East. The book will prove invaluable for students and non-specialists interested in late antiquity and early Byzantium, and it will be equally useful for specialists on these subjects.

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Preface

In 2001 our *Rom und das Perserreich. Zwei Weltmächte zwischen Konfrontation und Koexistenz* was published by the Akademie Verlag, Berlin. Naturally, comments made by friends and colleagues as well as academic reviews encouraged us to think further about the issues of our book and also about its place among textbooks and scholarly works. We are hoping that *Rome and Persia in Late Antiquity: Neighbours and Rivals*, a revised and expanded translation, is an adequate response to the many suggestions we have received since 2001, among these the observation that our book did not have a counterpart in the English language that would correspond to its scope and format.

Even more than the German volume, the present study of Roman–Sasanian relations has been guided by our attempt to focus on the interests and independent policies of the eastern power. In reaction to the conventional and still prevalent eurocentric perspective of many scholarly works we emphasise the Eastern textual and visual testimonies. We have done so with the help of Ph. Huyse (Paris), who translated crucial passages from the trilingual Šāpūr Inscription (the Parthian text) as well as the inscriptions of the Zoroastrian priest Kartēr (Middle Persian) into English for us. Petra Sijpesteijn (Oxford) helped us with the translation of excerpts from Arabic texts and David Taylor (Oxford) with the Syriac texts. Thank you!

We have expanded our study by including a new chapter on the role of Armenia (26). Here, we are grateful to Tim Greenwood (St Andrew’s), who not only translated the Armenian passages but also gave patient advice on the interpretation of the material. Moreover, the new book has chapters on Sasanian warfare (II.2) and on the relationship between rulers (II.8). We have also paid more attention to aspects of diplomacy and religion during the late phase of Roman–Sasanian relations.

It has been a pleasure to work with Cambridge University Press. We would like to thank Michael Sharp for accepting the book for publication,
Preface

and Sarah Parker and Elizabeth Davey for their support and guidance during all stages of the production. Last but not least, Linda Woodward's copy-editing has been thorough, extremely helpful and efficient.

Oxford/Münster

BEATE DIGNAS
AND ENGELBERT WINTER
Abbreviations

AA  Archäologischer Anzeiger
AAG. Ph.-h. Kl. Abhandlungen der Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen
AAAntHung Acta Antiqua Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae
AAAS Les annales archéologiques arabs syriennes
AAWW Anzeiger der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien. Philologisch-historische Klasse
AchHist Achaemenid History
ActIr Acta Iranica
AHB The Ancient History Bulletin
AJA American Journal of Archaeology
AJPh American Journal of Philology
AMI Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Iran
AnalBolland Analecta Bollandiana
AncSoc Ancient Society
ANRW Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt
AnTard Antiquité Tardive
ArOr Archiv Orientální
AW Antike Welt
BASOR Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
BCHI Bastan Chenasi va Honar-e Iran. Revue d’archéologie d’art iraniens
BHAC Bonner Historia Augusta Colloquium
BjB Bonner Jahrbücher
BMGS Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies
BSAC Bulletin de la Société d’Archéologie Copte
BSO(A)S Bulletin of the School of Oriental (from vol. 10 ff. and African) Studies
List of abbreviations

ByzF  Byzantinische Forschungen. Internationale Zeitschrift für Byzantinistik
ByzZ  Byzantinische Zeitschrift
CAH  The Cambridge Ancient History, Volumes i–xiv
CFHB  Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae
CHI  The Cambridge History of Iran, Volumes i–viii
CHR  Catholic Historical Review
CIL  Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum
CP  Classical Philology
CQ  Classical Quarterly
CSCO  Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium
CSHB  Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae
DNP  Der Neue Pauly
DOP  Dumbarton Oaks Papers
EA  Epigraphica Anatolica. Zeitschrift für Epigraphik und historische Geographie Anatoliens
EHR  English Historical Review
EI  Encyclopaedia of Islam
EncIr  Encyclopaedia Iranica
EOS  Atti del Colloquio Internazionale AIEGL su Epigrafia e Ordine Senatorio: Roma, 14–20 maggio 1981
E&W  East and West
G&R  Greece and Rome
GRBS  Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies
HAW  Handbuch der Altertumswissenschaften
HdO  Handbuch der Orientalistik
IF  Indogermanische Forschungen
IrAnt  Iranica Antiqua
JA  Journal Asiatique
JbAC  Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum
JDAI  Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts
JHS  Journal of Hellenic Studies
JNES  Journal of Near Eastern Studies
JNG  Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte
JRA  Journal of Roman Archaeology
JRAS  Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society
JRS  Journal of Roman Studies
JSAI  Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam
LMA  Lexikon des Mittelalters
MBAH  Münstersche Beiträge zur antiken Handelsgeschichte
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MH</td>
<td>Museum Helveticum</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Numismatic Chronicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>NZ</td>
<td>Numismatiche Zeitschrift</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCP</td>
<td>Orientalia Christiana Periodica</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLP</td>
<td>Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica</td>
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<tr>
<td>OrChr</td>
<td>Oriens Christianus</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLRE</td>
<td>Prospography of the Later Roman Empire</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSAS</td>
<td>Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>QC</td>
<td>Quaderni catanesi di studi classici e medievali</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAC</td>
<td>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum. Sachwörterbuch zur Auseinandersetzung des Christentums mit der antiken Welt</td>
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<tr>
<td>RE</td>
<td>Pauly-Wissowa Realencyclopaedia der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</td>
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<tr>
<td>REA</td>
<td>Revue des Études Anciennes</td>
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<td>REB</td>
<td>Revue des Études Byzantines</td>
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<td>REtArm</td>
<td>Revue des Études Arméniennes</td>
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<tr>
<td>RevBibl</td>
<td>Revue Biblique</td>
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<tr>
<td>RhM</td>
<td>Rheinisches Museum für Philologie</td>
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<tr>
<td>RIDA</td>
<td>Revue internationale des droits de l’antiquité</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RtorAnt</td>
<td>Rivista storica dell’antichità</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBAW</td>
<td>Sitzungsberichte der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften</td>
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<tr>
<td>ŠKZ</td>
<td>Inscription of Šāpūr I at the Ka’ba-i Zardust in Naqš-i Rustam</td>
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<td>StIr</td>
<td>Studia Iranica</td>
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<td>TALANTA</td>
<td>Talanta. Proceedings of the Dutch Archaeological and Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAPhA</td>
<td>Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAVO</td>
<td>Tübingener Atlas des Vorderen Orients</td>
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<tr>
<td>TravMem</td>
<td>Travaux et mémoires. Centre de recherche d’histoire et civilisation byzantine</td>
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List of abbreviations

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<tr>
<td>WJA</td>
<td>Würzburger Jahrbücher für die Altertumswissenschaft</td>
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<tr>
<td>YCS</td>
<td>Yale Classical Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZDMG</td>
<td>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZKG</td>
<td>Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZPE</td>
<td>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</td>
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