### Contents

**Acknowledgements**  page viii  
**Note on Transliteration and Dates**  x  
**List of Illustrations**  xi  
**List of Abbreviations**  xii  
**Genealogy of the Qāsimī imams**  xiv  
**Genealogy of the Hamīd al-Dīn imams**  xv  

**Introduction**  1  
1 Charismatic Authority: the Qāsimī Imamate in the Seventeenth Century  25  
2 Becoming a Dynasty: the Qāsimī Imamate in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries  47  
3 The Absolute Interpreter and ‘Renewer’ of the Thirteenth Century AH  76  
4 The Triumph of Sunnī Traditionism and the Re-Ordering of Yemenī Society  109  
5 Clashing with the Zaydīs: the Question of Cursing the Prophet’s Companions (sabb al-ṣaḥāba)  139  
6 Riots in Sanaa: the Response of the Strict Hādawīs  165  
7 Shawkānī’s Legacy  190  

**Conclusion**  230  
**Bibliography**  235  
**Index**  256