CONTENTS

List of plates vi
General editor’s preface viii
Acknowledgements x
Map 1: The break-up of the Mughal empire, c. 1766 xii
Map 2: British India, 1858–1947 xiv
Map 3: India after Independence, 1956–1987 xvi

Introduction 1
1 Historical origins of a ‘caste society’ 25
2 The ‘Brahman Raj’: kings and service people c. 1700–1830 64
3 Western ‘orientalists’ and the colonial perception of caste 97
4 Caste and the modern nation: incubus or essence? 144
5 The everyday experience of caste in colonial India 187
6 Caste debate and the emergence of Gandhian nationalism 233
7 State policy and ‘reservations’: the politicisation of caste-based social welfare schemes 266
8 Caste in the everyday life of independent India 306
9 ‘Caste wars’ and the mandate of violence 342
Conclusion 365

Glossary 383
Bibliography 388
Index 413