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,
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

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Archäologischer Anzeiger</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAG. Ph.-h. Kl.</td>
<td>Abhandlungen der Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAntHung</td>
<td>Acta Antiqua Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae</td>
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<td>AAAS</td>
<td>Les annales archéologiques arabs syriennes</td>
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<td>AAWW</td>
<td>Anzeiger der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien. Philologisch-historische Klasse</td>
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<td>Achaemenid History</td>
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<td>ActIr</td>
<td>Acta Iranica</td>
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<td>AHB</td>
<td>The Ancient History Bulletin</td>
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<td>AncSoc</td>
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<td>ANRW</td>
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<td>AnTard</td>
<td>Antiquité Tardive</td>
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<td>Archiv Orientalní</td>
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<td>AW</td>
<td>Antike Welt</td>
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<td>BASOR</td>
<td>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</td>
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<td>BCHI</td>
<td>Bastan Chenasi va Honar-e Iran. Revue d’archéologie d’art iraniens</td>
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<td>BHAC</td>
<td>Bonner Historia Augusta Colloquium</td>
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<td>Bjb</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMGS</td>
<td>Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSAC</td>
<td>Bulletin de la Société d’Archéologie Copte</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSO(A)S</td>
<td>Bulletin of the School of Oriental (from vol. 10 ff. and African) Studies</td>
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<td>ByzF</td>
<td>Byzantinische Forschungen. Internationale Zeitschrift für Byzantinistik</td>
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<td>ByzZ</td>
<td>Byzantinische Zeitschrift</td>
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<td>ČAH</td>
<td>The Cambridge Ancient History, Volumes i–xiv</td>
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<td>CFHB</td>
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<td>CHI</td>
<td>The Cambridge History of Iran, Volumes i–viii</td>
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<td>CHR</td>
<td>Catholic Historical Review</td>
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<td>CIL</td>
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<td>CP</td>
<td>Classical Philology</td>
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<td>CQ</td>
<td>Classical Quarterly</td>
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<td>CSCO</td>
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<td>DNP</td>
<td>Der Neue Pauly</td>
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<td>DOP</td>
<td>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</td>
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<td>EA</td>
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<td>Atti del Colloquio Internazionale AIEGL su Epigrafia e Ordine Senatorio: Roma, 14–20 maggio 1981</td>
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<td>E&amp;W</td>
<td>East and West</td>
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<tr>
<td>G&amp;R</td>
<td>Greece and Rome</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRBS</td>
<td>Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAW</td>
<td>Handbuch der Altertumswissenschaften</td>
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<td>HdO</td>
<td>Handbuch der Orientalistik</td>
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<td>IF</td>
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<td>IrAnt</td>
<td>Iranica Antiqua</td>
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<td>JA</td>
<td>Journal Asiatique</td>
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<td>JbAC</td>
<td>Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum</td>
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<tr>
<td>JDAI</td>
<td>Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts</td>
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<tr>
<td>JHS</td>
<td>Journal of Hellenic Studies</td>
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<td>JNES</td>
<td>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</td>
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<td>JNG</td>
<td>Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte</td>
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<tr>
<td>JRA</td>
<td>Journal of Roman Archaeology</td>
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<td>JRS</td>
<td>Journal of Roman Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>JSAI</td>
<td>Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMA</td>
<td>Lexikon des Mittelalters</td>
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<tr>
<td>MBAH</td>
<td>Münstersche Beiträge zur antiken Handelsgeschichte</td>
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List of abbreviations

MH Museum Helveticum
NC Numismatic Chronicle
NZ Numismatische Zeitschrift
OCP Orientalia Christiana Periodica
OLP Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica
OrChr Oriens Christianus
PLRE Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire
PSAS Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies
QC Quaderni catanesi di studi classici e medievali
RAC Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum. Sachwörterbuch zur Auseinandersetzung des Christentums mit der antiken Welt
RE Pauly-Wissowa Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft
REAA Revue des Études Anciennes
REB Revue des Études Byzantines
REtArm Revue des Études Arméniennes
RevBibl Revue Biblique
RhM Rheinisches Museum für Philologie
RIDA Revue internationale des droits de l’antiquité
RstorAnt Rivista storica dell’antichità
SBAW Sitzungsberichte der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften
ŠKZ Inscription of Šāpūr I at the Kaʿba-i Zardušt in Naqš-i Rustam
StIr Studia Iranica
TALANTA Talanta. Proceedings of the Dutch Archaeological and Historical Society
TAPhA Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association
TAVO Tübingener Atlas des Vorderen Orients
TravMem Travaux et mémoires. Centre de recherche d’histoire et civilisation byzantine
List of abbreviations

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