Contents

List of Plates  page vii
List of Maps and Figures  xv
Preface to Second Edition  xvii
Acknowledgements  xix
Timeline  xxi
Introduction  xxix

PART I THE LONG VIEW  1
  1 A Land of Water and Silt  3
  2 Jungle, Fields, Cities and States  11
  3 A Region of Multiple Frontiers  24
  4 The Delta as a Crossroads  43

PART II COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS  53
  5 From the Mughal Empire to the British Empire  55
  6 British Legacies  63
  7 A Closing Agrarian Frontier  82
  8 Colonial Conflicts  93
  9 Towards Partition  104
 10 Partition  112
 11 Population Exchange  121
vi

Contents

PART III BECOMING EAST PAKISTAN 127
12 The Pakistan Experiment 129
13 Pakistan Falls Apart 144
14 East Pakistani Livelihoods 154
15 The Roots of Aid Dependence 166
16 A New Elite and Cultural Renewal 174

PART IV WAR AND THE BIRTH OF BANGLADESH 181
17 Armed Conflict 183
18 A State Is Born 197
19 Imagining a New Nation 208

PART V INDEPENDENT BANGLADESH 217
20 Shaping a Political System 219
21 The Triumph of Identity Politics 231
22 Transnational Linkages 256
23 Boom or Bust? 275
24 Gender Movements 300
25 A National Culture? 312
Conclusion 333

Bangladesh District Maps 335
Key Political Figures since 1947 337
Glossary of Bengali Terms 347
Notes 352
Bibliography 370
Index 415