Contents

List of Figures and Tables page x
Preface and Acknowledgments xi
Note on the Text xvi
List of Abbreviations xviii

1 Introduction 1
Sovereignty and Sacred Law in Indic Tradition 6
Studying Religion and Politics in Ancient India 9
A Brief History of Varnadharma 13
The Arthaśāstra of Kautilya 18
On Higher Criticism 21
The Plan of the Book 25

2 Arthaśāstra Historiography 28
Character of the Arthaśāstra 28
Formal and Informal Features of the Text 31
The Language of the Arthaśāstra 37
The Traditional History of the Arthaśāstra 39
Critique of the Traditional Account 43
Unitary Authorship and Its Difficulties 47
Conclusion 50

3 The Resegmentation of the Arthaśāstra 52
Redundant Segmentation 52
Determining Priority between Topics and Chapters 54
A Second Hand 56
End Verses and their Relation to the Prose 66
The Pattern of Verse Dispersal in the Text 72
Excursus: A Verse Original? 75
The Plan of the Redaction 78
Additions at the Ends of Chapters 80
Conclusion 81
Contents

4  Citation and Attribution 83
   Formal Aspects of Citation in the Arthaśāstra 86
   Excursus: Unattributed Citations? 91
   Citation as Textual Intervention 98
   Citation and Redaction 104
   Conclusion 108

5  The Deep Structure of the Text 111
   The Compositional Style of the Dayanāti 112
   The Books 114
   The Deep Structure of the Text 117
   The First Half: Domestic Affairs 120
   The Second Half: Foreign Affairs 131
   Conclusion 137

6  The History of the Arthaśāstra 140
   The Extent of the Redaction 142
   Terminus Ante Quem 144
   Manu and the Original Text 145
   The Original Composition and Its Date 150
   Conclusion 152

7  The Politics of the Dayanāti 155
   Theoretical Foundations 156
   The Goals of Statecraft 160
   Sovereign Power and Its Limits 166
   The Dayanāti in Brāhmaṇical Context 168
   Conclusion 172

8  Varṇadharma in the Arthaśāstra 174
   The Political Theology of Varṇadharma 175
   Evidence of Interpolation 180
   Dharma, Sovereignty, and Righteousness 185
   Brāhmaṇical Exceptionalism 190
   Varpa as State Policy 197
   Conclusion 205

9  Statecraft, Law, and Religion in Ancient India 208
   An Independent Statecraft Tradition 208
   The Rājadharma Tradition 215
   Niti, Dharmaśāstra, and Brāhmaṇic Revival 217

Appendix I: Other Theories of Composition 224
Appendix II: Chapter Colophons 226
Appendix III: End Verses at Variance with Preceding Prose 228
Appendix IV: Possible Integration between Prose and End Verses 231
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix V: Proposed Interpolations at the End of Chapters</th>
<th>233</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appendix VI: Possible Instances of Unattributed Citation</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix VII: Proposed Interpolations Depending on Citations</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix VIII: Other Proposed Interpolations</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix IX: Manu’s Seventh Chapter and the Daṇḍanīti</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix X: Brāhmaṇical Privileges</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Sources</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Sources</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index Locorum</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>