

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	9
2. THE PARTHIAN BACKGROUND	11
3. THE REIGN OF ARDAŠĪR I (ca. 224 - 240 / 242)	19
3.1. The rise and revolt of Pābag and the early years of Ardašīr, ca. 211-216	19
3.2. Ardašīr takes the torch in ca. 216-224	24
3.3. Ardavān Reacts	27
3.4. The Battle of Hormzdagān on April 28, 224	29
3.5. Ardašīr I consolidates his position	38
3.6. Ardašīr I's organization of the Empire	53
3.7. Ardašīr I the "Achaemenid": the War against Rome and other campaigns 230-240	66
3.8. Ardašīr I the Founding Father of the Sāsānian Iran	78
4. ŠĀPUR I OF THE HOSTS (ca. 240 / 242 - 272)	79
4.1. Šāpur I's First War against Rome: Gordian III Invades Iran in 242-244	79
4.2. Šāpur I's Eastern Anabasis in ca. 243-249	83
4.3. Šāpur I's Second War against Rome in ca. 253-256	84
4.4. The Roman counter-attack and the Armenian question in ca. 253-257/8	93
4.5. Šāpur's Third War against Rome in ca. 259-270	96
4.6. Šāpur as <i>šāhānšāh</i> and Military leader	108
5. HORMOZD (ca. 272-273)	109
6. BAHRĀM I (273-276)	111
7. BAHRĀM II (276-293)	112
8. BAHRĀM III (293)	119
9. NARSEH (293-302)	121
10. EPILOGUE	128
APPENDIX: Select passages from sources	131
BIBLIOGRAPHY	137