## Contents

Acknowledgments IX

Introduction

The 'Abbasid and Carolingian Dynasties in Comparative Perspective 3

D.G. Tor

PART 1
Political Power

Inventing the Missi

Delegating Power in the Late Eighth and Early Ninth Centuries 13

Jennifer R. Davis

Ḥasanwayh b. al-Ḥusayn al-Kurdī (r. ca. 350–369/ca. 961–979) From Freehold Castles to Vassality? 52 Jürgen Paul

PART 2
Culture, Ethnicity, and Geography

The Emperor's Ass Hunting for the Asiatic Onager (Equus hemionus) in the 'Abbasid, Byzantine, and Carolingian Worlds 73 Eric J. Goldberg

Ethnicity in the Carolingian Empire 102
Walter Pohl

Across the Hindūkush of the 'Abbasid Period 123

Minoru Inaba

VIII CONTENTS

PART 3

Religion

The Rebel and the Imam

The Uprising of Zayd al-Nār and Shi'i Leadership Claims 169

Robert Gleave

## **Final Summation**

Comparing Carolingians and 'Abbasids 191 Michael Cook

Index 225