Contents

Acknowledgments 9
Mary Hilson

Introduction 11

Søren M. Sindbæk

1 The Viking Age, c. 790–1050
   1. The beginning of the Viking Age 29
   2. Royal politics 37
   3. Economy 54
   4. Culture 61
      ■ The Viking Age 66

Bjørn Poulsen

2 The High Middle Ages, 1050–1340
   1. Denmark as part of western Christendom 69
   2. Growth in the towns and countryside 73
   3. Society and societal groups 81
   4. The political development of the kingdom 93
   5. A Christian Danish culture 111
      ■ The High Middle Ages as a precondition 116

Jeppe Büchert Netterstrøm

3 The Late Middle Ages, 1340–1523
   1. Denmark in the Late Middle Ages 119
   2. Population and the structure of society 122
   3. The monarchy 135
   4. From mortgaged kingdom to regional great power 147
   5. Religion and culture 157
   6. The Reform king: Christian II 164
      ■ The Late Middle Ages – crisis and growth 167
Charlotte Appel and Carsten Porskrog Rasmussen

4 **Reformation and Power State, 1523–1660**

1. From the Middle Ages to the Reformation and the Early Modern Period 171
2. Living conditions and society 181
3. Denmark and the rest of the world 194
4. The Crown and the nobility 201
5. Culture and everyday life 211
   ■ From the Reformation to absolute monarchy 222

Nina Javette Koefoed and Mette Frisk Jensen

5 **Absolute Monarchy, 1660–1814**

1. The introduction and consolidation of absolute monarchy 225
2. The structure of society 229
3. Absolute rule and the administration 238
4. Foreign policy 249
5. Economic development, colonies and agrarian reforms 257
6. Religion and the Enlightenment 269
   ■ From absolutism by the grace of God to absolutism guided by public opinion 274

Claus Møller Jørgensen

6 **From Absolutist Composite State to Nation State, 1814–1914**

1. The Danish kingdom 277
2. National conflict, war and neutrality 280
3. Revolution, constitutional struggles and mass politics 287
4. Modernisation, internationalisation and urbanisation 306
5. Individualisation and national identity 323
   ■ Modernisation, democratisation and nationalisation 331

Bertel Nygaard

7 **The World War Era, 1914–1945**

1. Denmark in the world war era 335
2. The consolidation of the nation state in the shadow of the world wars 337
3. Ruptures within foreign and domestic politics 346
4. Economic crisis and public regulation 360
5. Cultural rupture and the longing for order 369
6. The occupation, 1940-1945 376
■ From the world war to the post-war era 383

Anne Sørensen

8 **The Post-War Era, 1945–1973**
1. The Danish realm and its population after 1945 387
2. Denmark in the Nordic region, Europe and the Western Bloc 394
3. Economic growth and the welfare state 406
4. Political culture – tradition and change 415
5. Cultural and social shifts 424
■ Modernity, prosperity and rupture 435

Thorsten Borring Olesen and Helle Strandgaard Jensen

9 **Global Times – After 1973**
1. Denmark in the world 439
2. Change and continuity in politics 445
3. Growth and welfare dilemmas 454
4. Cultural transformations and cultural struggles 467
5. Foreign policy: from the Cold War to the new European and global (dis)order 476
■ Exit – The global challenge 488

Timeline 493
The Royal Lineage 498
Prime Ministers 499
List of Illustrations 501
Index of Personal Names 503