

Contents

List of Boxes	vi
List of Illustrations	vii
Introduction: The Question of Empire	1
1 The Coming of the Mahdī	13
2 The City of the Mahdī	38
3 The Conquest of Egypt	60
4 The Constitution of the State	84
5 The Formation of the Empire	106
6 A Failure of Direction: The Reign of al-Ḥākim bi Amr Allāh	125
7 The Regime of the Pen	157
8 The Crisis of the Empire	180
9 The Fatimid Renaissance	207
10 The Reorientation of the Dynasty	233
11 The Final Failure	262
Conclusion: The Fatimids in Retrospect	296
Genealogy of Shi'ite Imāms	304
Genealogy of Fatimids	305
Bibliography	307
Index of Persons	318
Index of Dynasties, Peoples and Sects	330
Index of Places	333
Index of Subjects	336