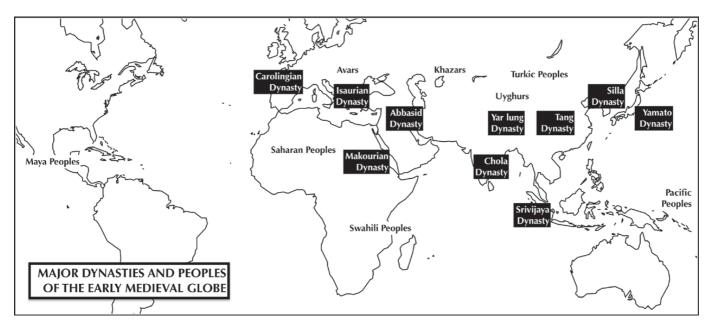
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This companion is the realization of an idea that I had in the spring of 2015: to produce a book that makes readers appreciate the early medieval period of human history from a global perspective. The road from that idea to the publication of this work would not have been completed without the help of several supportive and helpful individuals and institutions. The Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW) of New York University was kind enough to host and fund the symposium in April 2016—The Global Eighth Century: A Comparative Assessment of Socio-economic and Political Developments in the Eighth Century CE across Eurasia—where the first group of contributors to this companion was formed. I would in particular like to thank ISAW's assistant director for academic affairs, Marc LeBlanc, for all his help with organizing that symposium. Next, I am very grateful to the staff of Arc Humanities Press for their help during all the stages of the publication process. The trust that this press put in a junior and independent scholar who singlehandedly undertakes a large collaborative project is something that stands out in the world of academic publishing. Similarly, I am very grateful to all the authors of this companion not only for their hard work and patience but also for their willingness to work with an editor they had never met. However, by far my greatest thanks goes to my wife, Sezgi Hermans. Not only did she assist me with numerous details regarding maps and bibliographies, but she gave me what independent scholars need most: time. Without her dedication and support this companion would never have seen the light of day.

Erik Hermans West Suffield (USA) and Alkmaar (NL), 2018/2019



Map 1. Major dynasties and peoples of the early medieval globe. © Sezgi Hermans.