# Contents

*List of Illustrations*  xi
*Preface to the Paperback Edition*  xv
*Prologue: Did Someone Say 'Climate Change'?*  xviii
*Introduction: The ‘Little Ice Age’ and the ‘General Crisis’*  xxiv

## PART I. THE PLACENTA OF THE CRISIS  1
1 The Little Ice Age  3
2 The ‘General Crisis’  26
3 ‘Hunger is the greatest enemy’: The Heart of the Crisis  55
4 ‘A third of the world has died’: Surviving in the Seventeenth Century  77

## PART II. ENDURING THE CRISIS  111
5 The ‘Great Enterprise’ in China, 1618–84  115
6 ‘The great shaking’: Russia and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, 1618–86  152
7 The ‘Ottoman tragedy’, 1618–83  185
8 The ‘lamentations of Germany’ and its Neighbours, 1618–88  211
9 The Agony of the Iberian Peninsula, 1618–89  254
10 France in Crisis, 1618–88  291
11 The Stuart Monarchy: The Path to Civil War, 1603–42  324
12 Britain and Ireland from Civil War to Revolution, 1642–89  359

## PART III. SURVIVING THE CRISIS  397
13 The Mughals and their Neighbours  399
14 Red Flag over Italy  421
15 The ‘dark continents’: The Americas, Africa and Australia  445
16 Getting it Right: Early Tokugawa Japan  484
PART IV. CONFRONTING THE CRISIS 507
17 ‘Those who have no means of support’: The Parameters of Popular Resistance 509
18 ‘People who hope only for a change’: Aristocrats, Intellectuals, Clerics and ‘dirty people of no name’ 534
19 ‘People of heterodox beliefs . . . who will join up with anyone who calls them’: Disseminating Revolution 561

PART V. BEYOND THE CRISIS 587
20 Escaping the Crisis 591
21 From Warfare State to Welfare State 612
22 The Great Divergence 642

Conclusion: The Crisis Anatomized 668
Epilogue: ‘It’s the climate, stupid’ 686
Chronology 698
Acknowledgements 705
Note on Conventions 709
Note on Sources and Bibliography 710
Abbreviations Used in the Bibliography and Notes 714
Notes 718
Bibliography 794
Index 846