Contents

List of Illustrations IX
Abbreviations X

Introduction 1

1 Historiography 7

Kings and Clans 8
The Birth of the Viking Age 11
Regnum and Sacerdotium 13
A Tenth-Century Central Power 16
The Historical Turning Point 18
A Medieval Kingdom of the Viking Age 21
The Janus-Faced King 23
The Birth of Medieval Kingship 26
Conclusion 30

2 A Speculum Regale 33

The European Context 33

Rex Gratia Dei 45

Popular Legitimation of Kingship 49

The Lawmaker 58

The Ideal Leader 62

Conclusion 66

3 Genealogy 70

Historical Kings until c. 1140 76
Legendary Kings 91
Historic Kings in Sources from c. 1140 101
Conclusion 112

4 Marca, Feudum, and Sovereignty 116

The Danish Marca 116
Feudum 124
Sovereignty 132
Sovereignty—an Anachronism? 135
Conclusion 139

VI

5 Law, Justice, and Constitution 143

Sources of Medieval Law 145
Narratives of the Earliest Danish Laws 150
Extant Laws and Ordinances before 1241 157
Monarchical Legislation and Jurisdiction before 1241 166
Extant Laws and Ordinances from 1241 168
Monarchical Legislation and Jurisdiction from 1241 176
Constitution 177
Conclusion 182

6 Landownership 187

Ownership in Roman Law 188
Ownership in Medieval Jurisprudence 191
Family Ownership 200
Private Property 206
Ways of Acquiring Land 209
Common Rights and *Dominium Utile* 216
Conclusion 217

7 Tax 222

Tribute, Plunder, and Gifts 224
Mint Taxes 230
Town and Market Taxes 234
Customs Duties 239
Urban and Commercial Duties 245
Rural Taxes 246
Conclusion 256

8 War and Peace 260

Viking Kings and/or Warlords 261 Medieval Kings and/or Warlords 271 Towards a Public Army? 287 Military Law 293 Conclusion 301

9 The Realm 304

Dane 308
Denmark 312
The Geopolitical Area of Denmark before the Mid-Eleventh
Century 317

CONTENTS

Towards the Formation of a Realm 322 The Danish Realm 329 Conclusion 342

10 Overall Assessment 346

Bibliography 357
Index of Persons and Places 377
Subject Index 385