

# Contents

1	The background to the story Europe in the 5th century	7
2	Barbarian Christianity AD 500–1000	16
3	The triumph of Christian feudalism The 11th and 12th centuries	36
4	The greatest of centuries The 13th century	57
5	The growth of capitalism The 14th and 15th centuries	85
6	The age of discovery The 16th and 17th centuries	108
7	The dual revolution The 18th century	143
8	The age of iron 1815–1850	166
9	Tradition and progress 1850–1914	186
10	The modern world 1914 to the present day – and beyond	217
	List of Illustrations	263
	Bibliography	264
	Index	266