

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Acknowledgements	xv
Timeline	xvii
Introduction	
<i>What Was the Axial Age?</i>	1

Part I. West Asia

1. The Noble Ones	9
2. The Life of Zoroaster	21
3. Zoroaster's Legacy	27

Part II. South Asia

4. South Asia before the Axial Age	39
5. The Start of the Indian Axial Age	49
6. Death and Rebirth	59
7. The Quest for Liberation	67
8. The Vedantic Solution	75
9. The One and the Many	85
10. The Life of Siddhattha Gotama	95
11. "I Am Awake"	105
12. Why We Suffer	113
13. The Noble Path	121
14. From Buddha to Buddhism	131
15. Jainism	141

Part III. East Asia

16. East Asia before the Axial Age	153
17. The World of Confucius	163
18. The Foundations of Confucianism	173
19. The Cultivation of Virtue	183

20. Early Confucianism and the Rise of Daoism	191
21. The Daodejing	201
22. Daoist Politics and Mysticism	213
23. Reflections on the Axial Age	223
Glossary	233
Bibliography	253