

THE END OF EVERYTHING

HOW WARS DESCEND
INTO ANNIHILATION

NEW YORK TIMES-BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE DYING CITIZEN*

VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

BASIC BOOKS

New York

CONTENTS

LIST OF MAPS vi

PREFACE vii

INTRODUCTION. How Civilizations Disappear 1

CHAPTER 1. Hope, Danger's Comforter: The Obliteration
of Classical Thebes (December 335 BC) 11

CHAPTER 2. The Wages of Vengeance: The Destruction of Carthage
and Punic Civilization in Africa (149–146 BC) 59

CHAPTER 3. Deadly Delusions: The Fall of Constantinople and
the End of the Byzantines (Spring 1453) 127

CHAPTER 4. Imperial Hubris: The Annihilation of
the Aztec Empire (Summer 1521) 195

EPILOGUE. How the Unimaginable Becomes
the Inevitable 259

NOTES 289

WORKS CITED 315

INDEX 331