## Contents

List of Figures and Tables XI

Acknowledgments XV

CHAPTER I: THE THIRD HORSEMAN 1

The Ultimate Check 8

Time and Place 13

How Common Were Famines in the Past? 25

Remembering Famine 39

CHAPTER II: THE HORRORS OF FAMINE 45

Crime 52

Slavery 56

Prostitution, Infanticide, and Child Abandonment 59

Cannibalism 63

CHAPTER III: PREVENTION AND COPING 69
Famine Foods 73
Country Misers and Calculating Merchants 78
Migration 81

CHAPTER IV: FAMINE DEMOGRAPHY 90
Hierarchies of Suffering 90
How Many Died? 92

Gender and Age 98

Missing Births 102

What Do People Die of during Famines? 108

Long-term Impacts 121

CHAPTER V: MARKETS AND FAMINES 129
Profiteers 129
French Économistes and Adam Smith 137
Markets and Famines in Practice 143
Transport 155
Conclusion 157

CHAPTER VI: ENTITLEMENTS: BENGAL AND BEYOND 159

Bengal 159

Food Supply and Market Failure 166

Winners and Losers 178

Conclusion 184

CHAPTER VII: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTION 195
Feeding the Starving 195
Means of Relief 210
Corruption 216
NGOs and the Globalization of Relief 218
Famine Relief as State Aid 225

CHAPTER VIII: THE "VIOLENCE OF GOVERNMENT" 229

War by Another Means 229

The USSR 233

The Chinese Famine of 1959–61 241

Ethiopia and North Korea 254

CHAPTER IX: AN END TO FAMINE? 259

Agricultural Trends 262

Climate and Desertification 269

Where Backwardness Persists 274

A Stitch in Time 278

References 283 Index 319