

Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Prologue | vii |
| Descartes's Biographers | xi |
| 1. Family and Childhood | 1 |
| 2. Studies | 8 |
| 3. Two Decisive Years | 24 |
| 4. Travels and Exercises in the Method | 49 |
| 5. The Netherlands (1629-41) | 73 |
| 6. The Netherlands (1642-49) | 143 |
| 7. The End in Sweden | 188 |
| Epilogue | 216 |
| Notes | 227 |
| Index | 257 |