

## Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>References</i>	xv

### INTRODUCTION

<b>1 Descartes and the history of philosophy</b>	3
<b>2 Descartes' project for a new philosophy</b>	18
A. The expectation of a new philosophy	18
B. Descartes: science and wisdom	25
C. Descartes: Augustine against Aristotle	43
D. Outline of research	62

### PART ONE: AUGUSTINIAN WISDOM

<b>3 Plotinus</b>	73
A. Augustine and the Platonists	73
B. Platonism, anti-Stoicism, and the method of ascent	82
B.1. What was Platonism?	82
B.2. From Stoicism to Platonism	89
B.3. Plotinus' strategy of ascent	98
C. Soul and Nous	106
D. Soul in bodies	120

<b>4 Augustine</b>	130
A. True and false wisdom	130
B. The soul and God	144
C. Whence evil?	167
D. Christianity and philosophy	185
D.1. Faith and understanding	185
D.2. The doctrinal content of Christianity	194

### PART TWO: DESCARTES' METAPHYSICS

<b>5 The design of the <i>Meditations</i></b>	209
A. From the <i>Rules</i> to the <i>Meditations</i>	209

## CONTENTS

B. The uses of scepticism: withdrawing the mind from the senses	220
C. The uses of scepticism: why only God is the source of truth	232
<b>6 Isolating the soul and God</b>	<b>245</b>
A. Isolating the rational soul	245
B. Isolating God as <i>Nous</i>	262
B.1. The goals of the third Meditation	262
B.2. Judgments and the causes of ideas	270
B.3. Objective reality and the isolation of the idea of God	275
B.4. The proof of God's existence	281
C. From God as <i>Nous</i> to God as creator	293
<b>7 Theodicy and method</b>	<b>301</b>
A. The doctrine of judgment	301
A.1. Interpreting the fourth Meditation	301
A.2. Ignorance and error	303
A.3. Judgment, will, and intellect	307
A.4. Judgment, will, and nature	313
A.5. Deliverance from error	318
B. Consequences for reason and for faith	322
<b>8 From God to bodies</b>	<b>337</b>
A. The creation of the eternal truths	337
B. The essence of body	353
C. The teachings of nature	366
D. The laws of motion	380
<b>9 Conclusion</b>	<b>393</b>
<i>Works cited</i>	405
<i>Index</i>	409