

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Preface to the second edition</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xxvii
<i>Chronology of events</i>	xxix
<i>Genealogy</i>	xxxv
<i>Glossary</i>	xxxvii
Historical background: the growth of the French state to 1627	1
1 The crucible, 1620s–1630s	36
2 The twenty years' crisis, 1635–1654	71
3 Louis XIV: laying the foundation, 1654–1683	100
4 The debacle	152
5 The mature monarchical state	191
6 A new France takes shape	239
7 Reform, renewal, collapse	291
8 The interregnum, 1787–1789	342
<i>Original bibliography</i>	359
<i>New bibliography</i>	366
<i>Index</i>	375