# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of illustrations</th>
<th>vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronology</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction: The enigma of the Republic  
1 A turbulent beginning  

**Part I:  War without end**  
2 An independent state (1609–1650)  
3 A world power (1650–1713)  
4 The armed forces  
5 Financial might  

**Part II:  Golden Age: economy and society**  
6 A market economy  
7 A worldwide trading network  
8 Riches  
9 Toil and trouble  

**Part III:  Unity and discord: politics and governance**  
10 Community  
11 The authorities  
12 A dissonant chorus
Table of Contents

vi    Contents

**Part IV: An urban society**

13 Religious pluralism 201
14 A new approach to science and philosophy 222
15 The Dutch school of painting 234
16 The urban landscape 250

Conclusion: The end of the Golden Age 263

*Further reading* 274
*Index* 303