

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Preface</i> | ix |
| <i>Maps</i> | xi |
| Introduction | 1 |
| Diversity | 1 |
| Water and windmills | 4 |
| Convergence | 7 |
| 1 From Pagans to Crusaders, 57 BC to AD 1100 | 10 |
| The Belgians are the bravest of the them all, 57–13 BC | 10 |
| Beyond the Rhine, 13 BC to AD 80 | 14 |
| Romanization, AD 80–396 | 19 |
| The End of Roman Rule, 396–500 | 25 |
| The Age of Saints, 500–800 | 27 |
| The Empire of the West Renewed, 800–1018 | 34 |
| Feudalism | 41 |
| The Eleventh-Century Reform, 1018–1122 | 43 |
| The First Crusade, 1095–1099 | 46 |
| 2 Patterns of Power and Piety, 1100–1384 | 49 |
| The County of Flanders, 1037–1157 | 49 |
| East of the Scheldt | 52 |
| Town and Country | 56 |
| The New Monasticism, 1098–1147 | 63 |
| The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century | 65 |
| The Empire and the Low Countries, 1155–1256 | 67 |
| Religious Life in the Thirteenth Century | 72 |
| War, Marriage and Murder, 1246–1305 | 79 |
| Civic Culture and Governance around 1300 | 86 |
| The Dismal Century, 1305–1384 | 90 |
| The Beginnings of Burgundian Rule | 95 |

| | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| 3 | The Low Countries United and Divided, 1384–1609 | 96 |
| | The Burgundian Century, 1384–1477 | 96 |
| | The Arts of Peace | 101 |
| | From Burgundy to Habsburg, 1477–1515 | 108 |
| | The Renaissance | 109 |
| | World Market – World Empire | 111 |
| | The Reformation, 1517–1566 | 113 |
| | Iconoclasm to Abjuration, 1566–1581 | 120 |
| | The Netherlands Divided, 1581–1609 | 127 |
| 4 | From Delftware to Porcelain, 1609–1780 | 132 |
| | The Republic as a World Power | 132 |
| | The Multi-Faith North | 137 |
| | The Catholic South | 141 |
| | The Golden Age | 143 |
| | The Eighty Years War Continued, 1621–1648 | 151 |
| | The First ‘Stadholderless’ Period, 1650–1672 | 155 |
| | A Happy Few | 158 |
| | The Return of the Stadholder, 1672–1702 | 160 |
| | The Second ‘Stadholderless’ Period, 1702–1747 | 162 |
| | The Age of Enlightenment, 1747–1787 | 163 |
| 5 | The Rise and Fall of the Liberal Order, 1776–1914 | 167 |
| | Patriots and Revolutionaries, 1782–1799 | 167 |
| | Napoleon the Lawgiver, 1800–1815 | 173 |
| | The United Kingdom of the Netherlands, 1815–1830 | 175 |
| | The Belgian Revolution, 1830–1839 | 178 |
| | The Confessional Divide, 1840–1878 | 181 |
| | Emancipatory Movements, 1878–1914 | 187 |
| | The Second Golden Age | 199 |
| | Around the World | 204 |
| | The Peace Movement | 208 |
| 6 | World Wars and World Peace, 1914–2002 | 210 |
| | The Great War, 1914–1918 | 210 |
| | The Crises of Peace, 1919–1939 | 215 |
| | The Second World War, 1940–1945 | 221 |
| | After the War, 1945–2002 | 231 |
| | <i>Chronology of Major Events</i> | 242 |
| | <i>Select List of Dynasties and Rulers</i> | 250 |
| | <i>Selected Further Reading in English</i> | 261 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 267 |