

# Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	vii
<i>Translator's Preface</i>	ix
<i>Author's Preface</i>	xiii
Introduction	1
I Prehistory of Probability Theory	
1 Basic stimuli in the rise of probability theory	3
2 The role of gambling in the rise of probability theory	7
3 The first problems	15
4 Cardano and Tartaglia	18
5 Elements of probability theory in Galileo's works	28
6 Basic stages in the development of combinatorics	34
II The First Stage in the Development of Probability Theory	
1 De Méré's legend	40
2 Letters between Fermat and Pascal	43
3 Contributions of Huygens to probability theory	48

<b>III</b>	<b>The Development of Probability Theory to the Middle of the Nineteenth Century</b>	
1	James Bernoulli and his treatise "Ars Conjectandi"	56
2	The development of probability theory in the first half of the eighteenth century	76
3	Simpson's contributions to probability theory	82
4	Thomas Bayes and his theorem	87
5	Euler's and Daniel Bernoulli's contributions	101
6	G. L. Buffon	118
7	Opposition from d'Alembert	123
8	Jean Antoine de Caritat, Marquis de Condorcet	129
9	Laplace and his contributions to probability theory	135
10	Distribution of random errors	148
11	The state of probability theory in Europe prior to the advent of the Russian (St. Petersburg) school	158
12	Probability theory in Russia prior to the advent of the St. Petersburg school	161
<b>IV</b>	<b>Probability Theory in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century</b>	
1	Chebyshev—the originator of the Russian school of probability theory	188
2	Prominent representatives of the St. Petersburg school	208
3	Probability in physics	225
4	Bertrand's paradoxes	234
<b>V</b>	<b>The Axiomatic Foundations of Probability Theory</b>	
1	The need for axiomatization	240
2	Prerequisites for axiomatization	248
3	Bernstein's contributions	249
4	The frequency approach of R. von Mises	254
5	The beginning of a new stage in the development of probability theory	259
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>265</b>
	<i>Index</i>	<b>275</b>