

Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Acknowledgements, names and dates | 7 |
| Introduction | 9 |
| I England and the Dutch Republic | 15 |
| Two republics | 15 |
| Trade and shipping rivalry | 19 |
| The Navigation Act | 22 |
| The First Anglo-Dutch War, 1652-1654 | 28 |
| II The Lord Protector's man in The Hague, 1658-1660 | 31 |
| From preacher to diplomat | 31 |
| The diplomat's instructions | 35 |
| The Hague; exiles | 37 |
| On His Highness's service | 40 |
| Diplomatic pitfalls | 44 |
| A mercantilist 'master class' | 46 |
| Undercover work | 47 |
| III International politics | 52 |
| France and Spain | 52 |
| Portugal | 54 |
| The Baltic | 60 |
| IV The King's man in The Hague, 1661-1664 | 69 |
| The House of Stuart | 69 |
| On His Majesty's service | 73 |
| Downing and the press | 79 |
| Champion of English mercantilism | 81 |
| The regicides | 85 |
| Friendship Treaty negotiations | 89 |
| The House of Orange | 96 |
| The Treaty at work | 103 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| V War | 111 |
| The slide to war | 111 |
| The Second Anglo-Dutch War, 1665-1667 | 138 |
| Interbellum | 148 |
| Downing's last mission, 1672 | 152 |
| The Third Anglo-Dutch War, 1672-1674, and after | 156 |
| | |
| Conclusions | 160 |
| Character and reputation | 160 |
| Diplomatist | 164 |
| The sea wars | 169 |
| Trade combatant | 172 |
| Financial reformer | 176 |
| State-builder | 181 |
| | |
| Notes | 183 |
| Family relationships | 210 |
| Downing family | 212 |
| Publications of Sir George Downing and replies from the States General | 213 |
| Other primary sources | 220 |
| Secondary sources | 225 |
| Index | 235 |