

# Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	ix
<i>Conventions</i>	xiii
<i>Preface</i>	xiv

## PART I. THE THRESHOLD OF POWER

1 Apprenticeship, 1527–1543	3
2 A Renaissance prince, 1543–1551	26
3 The changing face of empire, 1551–1558	41

## PART II. THE KING AND HIS WORLD

4 The king at work	61
5 The king and God	80
6 The king at play	100

## PART III. THE FIRST DECADE OF THE REIGN

7 Getting a grip, 1558–1561	121
8 ‘I would rather lose a hundred thousand lives if I had them’: keeping the faith, 1562–1567	140
9 Family life – and death	156
10 The enigma of Don Carlos	175

## PART IV: THE KING VICTORIOUS

11 Years of crusade, 1568–1572	195
12 Years of adversity, 1573–1576	213
13 The crisis of the reign, 1576–1577	228
14 Murder most foul?	247
15 Years of triumph, 1578–1585	264
16 ‘The most potent monarch in Christendom’	282

## PART V: THE KING VANQUISHED

17	The 'Enterprise of England', 1585–1588	305
18	Philip at bay, 1589–1592	324
19	Towards the tomb – and beyond, 1593–1603	341
	Epilogue	363
	<i>Abbreviations</i>	376
	<i>Note on sources</i>	380
	<i>Notes</i>	386
	<i>Bibliography</i>	414
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	424
	<i>Index</i>	428