# Contents

Note to the Reader vii

Introduction 1

1 An Imperial Princess 16
2 Teetering on the Brink 41
3 The Imperial Mandate 62
4 Deeper into the Labyrinth 84
5 An Amazing Consequence 98
6 To the Lord God Nothing Is Impossible 116
7 The Long Struggle 140
8 A Manly Resolve 161
9 Westphalian Maneuverings 179
10 Pressing the Attack 197
11 Satisfaction 214

Conclusion 233

Abbreviations 247
Notes 249
Acknowledgments 311
Index 313