Contents

List	of Abbreviations	xiii
1.	Tentative Beginnings: France, Germany, and Intimations of	
	Rapprochement	1
	Contrasting Perspectives	1
	The Opening Gambits	8
2.	From Thoiry to the Young Plan: Cautious Progress and the	
	Death of Stresemann	26
	Diplomatic Headwinds and Unofficial Initiatives	26
	The Grautoff Initiative	29
	Franco-German Relations on the Eve of the Hague Conferences	36
	The First Hague Conference	40
	Julius Curtius and the Second Hague Conference	50
3.	Germany, France, and the Briand Plan	56
	The (Problematic) Launch of the Briand Plan	56
	Franco-German Exchanges	60
	Complications and Upsets	72
	The Rhineland Evacuation and Added Tensions	74
	The 1930 Reichstag Election: Challenges and Reassurance	77
4.	From Paris to Berlin: Official Visits and the Origins of the	
	Franco-German Commission	85
	Enduring Tensions and the Austro-German Customs Union	85
	Brüning in Paris	90
	The Catholic Connection	95
	Hopeful Signs: The Prussian Plebiscite and Economic Detente	106
	Preparations for the Berlin Ministerial Conference	110
5.	Berlin and the Creation of the Franco-German Commission	123
	A Successful Conference	123
	Latour in Berlin	129
	Creating the Commission	131
	An Imminent Trade War and the Quota Issue	137
	Growing Discord in the Commission	141
	Political Instability and Diplomatic Stalemate	147

xii Contents

6. Breakdown: The Stresemann Memoirs Scandal and Wounds that	
Failed to Heal	151
A Difficult Climate	15
Alsatian Sensitivities	155
The Stresemann Memoirs Scandal	160
Impasse	170
Conclusion	185
Bibliography	189
Index	