



# Descartes' Bones: A Skeletal History of the Conflict between Faith and Reason

*Russell Shorto*

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*A New York Times* Notable Book

Sixteen years after René Descartes' death in Stockholm in 1650, a pious French ambassador exhumed the remains of the controversial philosopher to transport them back to Paris. Thus began a 350-year saga that saw Descartes' bones traverse a continent, passing between kings, philosophers, poets, and painters.

But as Russell Shorto shows in this deeply engaging book, Descartes' bones also played a role in some of the most momentous episodes in history, which are also part of the philosopher's metaphorical remains: the birth of science, the rise of democracy, and the earliest debates between reason and faith. **Descartes' Bones** is a flesh-and-blood story about the battle between religion and rationalism that rages to this day.

**BONUS MATERIAL:** This ebook edition includes an excerpt from Russell Shorto's *Amsterdam*.

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