

# Contents

1. Introduction .....	1
2. General Relativity and Standard Cosmology .....	19
3. String Theory, Duality, and the Primordial Universe .....	35
4. The Theory of Strings.....	53
5. Inflation and the Birth of the Universe .....	73
6. The Cosmological Background of Gravitational Radiation.	93
7. Other Relics of the Primordial Universe .....	125
8. Quantum Cosmology .....	143
9. The Future of our Universe.....	153
10. Recent Developments: Brane Cosmology Scenarios .....	171
11. Conclusion .....	193
References .....	199
Index .....	203