The aim of the study is to analyse, on the basis of Descartes’s Meditations on First Philosophy, the scope of the terms “soul” and “body” and to derive what meaning may be in the light of them given to the modern terms “subject” and “object.” The primary question is what the respective essences of res cogitans and res extensa consist in. To achieve this goal, the study interprets relevant passages from Descartes’ work and highlights its standpoints and the main ontological decisions Descartes makes. The point of this questioning is to understand his novel conception of the relation between man and the world that became determining for the modern era. Later philosophers up to this day have often considered Descartes’ dualism between soul and body as a philosophical concept that should be abandoned. The aim of the work is therefore to understand what negatives result from this concept.