The present work is a part of a broader inquiry into the dynamics and flexibility of the contemporary form of state and state policy in India, conceived by the author about six years back. The first phase of the inquiry revealed that the present dynamics in the form of the state is a historical derivative of the form crystallized during the Nehru era. Thus the present study was conceived as an attempt to analyse the historical genesis, the form and function of Nehru socialism, in relation to the development of bourgeois revolution in India. The development of the state industrial policy was taken as a case for the illustration of our arguments.

It was clear that a multi-disciplinary analysis like this could be best located -- for academic purposes -- within a critical-sociological perspective. The aim has been to present the specific ideological forms as crystallizations of an objective process of development, without giving any value judgements. Given the sheer dearth of theoretical and empirical research in the area, we have devoted considerable attention to clarification of some of the theoretical issues as part of our arguments and generalizations. The limits of the present work, we hope, will be overcome by future research.

A major part of our data has been collected from archival sources, supplemented by government reports and secondary sources. For reasons of space, details about place and year of publication of the materials referred to (and sometimes even parts of the title) have been omitted from the footnotes, and can be found in the selected bibliography given at the end of the thesis.

NOVEMBER 1981

- J.A.