ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to express the deep sense of gratitude that I owe to Prof. Devendra Kaushik, my supervisor, for his invaluable guidance and supervision and care and concern throughout the course of this study. For a person who had his basic grounding in History, taking up international relations as his field of specialization, that too issues relating to security and geopolitics of Central Asian Republics in the post-Soviet period, was like moving into a completely unknown territory. Challenging and difficult as it were for me, the task obviously needed much more perseverance and hard work than normally a Ph. D. scholar would do. And of course, this would not have been possible without the able guidance and support provided by Prof. Kaushik. With his immense command over the subject and vast experience in the area, Prof. Kaushik made my work easy.

I had frequent meetings, long sittings and rigorous focussed debates and discussions with him, which helped me, evolve into a researcher with balanced view and perspectives. Prof. Kaushik has remained very warm and easily accessible throughout my association with him and had the patience to deal with a researcher of my kind. I am greatly obliged to him for all this and for many more contributions that I can not even recount.

My deepest appreciation to Prof. Shamsuddin, Chairperson, C.R.,C.A. & E.E.S., S.I.S., J.N.U. My sincere thanks to Prof. R. R. Sharma, Prof. Nirmala Joshi, Dr. S. K. Jha, Dr. Ajay Patnaik, Dr. Tulsi Ram and other faculty members of the Centre for frequent discussions I had with them.
Staff member of the Libraries of Indian Council of World Affairs, Institute of Defence and Strategic Analysis, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India and Central Library, J.N.U. deserve praise for their constant cooperation.

I thank my friends and senior colleagues especially Shamshad, Kaushambi, Vivek, Dr. Janaki, Bala, Kritika, Anil, Joseph, Ram Singh, Saigal and Qaiyoom. M. S. Bisht deserves a special word of thanks for typing the thesis with immense care and patience.

I am grateful to my parents and other family members especially to my uncles Manjoor Alam and Quamruddin Ahmad and brothers Niyaz Ahmad and Nisar Ahmad for their continual inspiration and encouragement. Special gratitude to Anjum, my younger brother, for financial support. Thanks are due to Gul Nehar, Shabana, Gudiya, Guddi, Dazy and Ladli for their ceaseless support. Without the cooperation and care of all of them it would have been difficult to complete the work.

Contributions of a number of others whose names have not been mentioned but they have lent their helping hands at some or the other stage of the study is sincerely acknowledged.

Mohammad Monir Alam