PREFACE

The relation between India and Portugal has a distinct character of its own kind. These two nations are connected closely with each other for more than five hundred years. The present study Reviewing Indo-Portugal Relations: A Special Reference to Bengal is an attempt to locate the various aspects of this relationship. By studying the rise and destiny of the Portuguese in India we can have an idea about the historical basis the Indo-Portugal relationship. Another aim of the present research is to understand the response of these nations to the international political development like the Cold War and the impact of the Cold War on the relationship between them. The historical legacy of the Portuguese in India helps us to acquire knowledge about the nature of the socio-cultural interaction between them. The idea of the present work came in to my mind when I was a postgraduate student in the Department of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata during 2004-2006. I found the Portuguese to be the most interesting nations among the Europeans who came into contact with India. During the course I also came to realize that this particular area of study drew very few scholars’ attention and most of the works on this subject is mainly historical. My aim was to review the Indo-Portugal relationship from the perspective of international relations. Learning Portuguese language also helped me a lot to understand the relationship more closely.

Since no research work of this kind is possible by a single individual, here I would like to express my gratitude to them who have always supported and encouraged me to complete the work. I always enjoyed enormous help and cooperation from different corners and without their mental, academic and institutional support, I might not have completed this work in due time. I am grateful to Dr. Rup Kumar Barman, Reader, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur
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The source materials of the present study have been collected from different archives, libraries and institutions and from the verbal as well as written communication with many institutions of India and Portugal. I record my thanks to the staff of the libraries namely, the Goethals Indian Library and Research Society, the Asiatic Society, the National Library, the Centre for the Study of Social Sciences, the Indian Statistical Institutes, the West Bengal State Archives, the Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata; the Central Library, Jadavpur University and Departmental Libraries of Department of Bengali, Department of English, Department of International Relations, Department of History, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University in Kolkata. I am grateful to the Ministry of Finance and Foreign Affairs and the Government of Portugal to help me acquire some rare data relevant to the present study.
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