Acknowledgements

This project would never have been completed without the encouragement, guidance and co-operation of great number of people. Firstly, I would like to thank my supervisors Dr Mahua Sarkar and Dr Sugata Hazra, for helping me to formulate new ideas, guiding me when I felt lost and encouraging me to think independently.

I am deeply grateful to Mahesh Rangarajan for providing new insights to my work. I was provided excellent materials by La Gloria Konata (Georgia State University) for which I will remain forever grateful.

This work has drawn heavily from archival materials and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those especially connected to the Annexe building of the National Library for their dedicated efforts to search for rare colonial records and documents. Besides, our favourite ’Banani di’ of the Department
of History, library, was ever helpful, as always, with new materials.

Without the mention of some very important people, this present task would seem incomplete. Firstly, I would like to thank my parents, without whose blessings, support and encouragement at every stage of this project, the present work would never have seen completion. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my husband, Abhijit, who supported me throughout, inspite of his busy schedule.

Although it is impossible to mention everyone who had directly or indirectly helped in the completion of the thesis, I would want to mention few names without whose help it would have been impossible to submit this thesis. Hence, I want to thank Sukdeb Paul, Swapan Pal and Soumitra babu for their help and support at times of great need.