Political Culture, in general, refers to the pattern of psychological orientations of the people of a Society toward politics, and their Societal Political System. It, therefore, characterizes their mind-set, and tends to determine their behaviour and roles in the political process of the Society. As the Political System is ‘a set of interactions abstracted from the totality of social behaviour through which authoritative allocation of values are made’, its dynamics and performance tend to be influenced, to a great extent, by people’s political behaviour and roles which, in turn, seems to be mostly determined by the patterns of their political culture. Therefore, political culture appears to be a major determinant not only of the individual’s political roles but also of the working of the Societal Political System.

This tremendous relevance of political culture as a Conceptual Construct for appreciating and comprehending both micro-politics and macro-politics that has provided necessary impetus for undertaking the present’ academic work of exploring into, and delineating the pattern of political culture of a Sample of Tribal Political Leaders of Sundargarh District of Orissa. The academic interest for undertaking a study of the pattern of political culture of these Tribal Political Leaders emanates from
the fact that they represent the primitive communities which are expected to undergo attitudinal changes as a consequence of the introduction of the Democratic Polity in India after its independence from the British Rule on 15th August 1947. These Tribal Leaders are the central figures in tribal communities as the tribal people always look toward them for guidance and direction. Therefore, the democratization of the Political Society seems to be crucially determined by the pattern of orientations, whether Democratic or otherwise, of these leaders. Moreover, as they come to play determining roles in the making and implementation of public policies, their attitudinal patterns seem to be crucially significant in context of the over-all performance of the Political System. Hence, an academic endeavour has been undertaken in order to enquire into, and delineate the pattern of political culture of these tribal political leaders so that the extent and the pace of democratization and political modernization of the tribal people who look-forward to their leaders for guidance and direction may be appreciated and assessed. This study is also expected to provide meaningful insights for appreciating and understanding the emerging pattern of the tribal political power-structure which seems be embedded on the patterns of political culture of these tribal political leaders. Of course, this is a work which has been undertaken at the local level, specifically in Sundargarh District of Orissa; and this district has
been identified and selected as the Universe of this study because it is mostly peopled by the Scheduled Tribes.

This empirical work spreads over six chapters. Chapter I is the Introductory Chapter which highlights the relevance of this research work, provides an over-view of relevant literature, outlines the major objectives of this study, and the hypotheses to be tested, and spells out the methodology adopted for studying this problem. Chapter II deals with the Theoretical Frame-work concerning Political Culture. Chapter III introduces the District of Sundargarh as the Universe of this work, and analyses the socio-economic profile of a Sample of the Tribal Political Leaders identified for the purpose of this research work. Chapter IV enquires into, and analyses the emerging Pattern of Political Culture of the Tribal Political Leaders of Sundargarh District of Orissa. Chapter V examines the process of Political Socialization of these Tribal Political Leaders, in the context of the role of some important Political Socializers in contributing toward formation of political culture in them, especially relating to the acquisition and development of the Sense of Political Competence. Chapter VI is the concluding Chapter which highlights the findings obtained in this empirical study.
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Sambalpur

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(Mrs. Johani Xaxa)