ACKNOWLEDGMENT

There are certain people who supported me intellectually to conduct this research, without them indeed the work could not have been accomplished. Therefore, first and foremost, I am very grateful to Prof. Dr. Yashwant Sumant, my supervisor who is the Head of the Department of Politics & Public Administration, University of Pune, for his long and constant guidance. He spent his valuable time reading and commenting on this work. Prof. Sumant's support, encouragement, critical comments, and his unfailing kindness made this thesis possible. In fact, it was Prof. Yashwant Sumant who inspired me to study Balochistan politically. His support and patience is highly appreciated.

Equally important for the completion of this work is the help of Dr. Mohammad Reza Taheri, a Faculty Member of Department of History, University of Sistan & Balochistan in Iran, who is the Head of Saravan Agriculture & Natural Resources Faculty, affiliated to the University of Sistan & Balochistan. Indeed, I shall ever remain indebted to him for his valuable cooperation and assistance, which guided me a lot throughout this long research project.

My deepest thanks go to Dr. Mohammad Hassan Hossinbour, a Member of the Washington, D.C. Bar and the former Energy and Academic Advisor to the Embassy of the State of Qatar (1982-1998). Dr. Mohammad Hassan Hossinbour kindly provided me with useful materials for my research.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to the faculty members of the Department of Politics & Public Administration, University of Pune, such as Prof. Palshikar, Prof. Pandit, and the late Prof. Vora. They deserve special mention for their support and encouragement.
This study has followed a descriptive analytical approach. In fact, most of the materials for this study were collected mainly from Balochistan of Iran, my home land. For the purpose of this study, I visited the entire Balochistan of Iran and met with different personalities such as a number of Iranian influential figures. I also participated in the various officials, as well as, unofficial meetings between government authorities and the Baloch elite of Iran. The debates exchanged in these meetings, in fact, have been an important source for this case study.

In addition, for the provision of important materials on this research, I visited almost all libraries including the public and private libraries in Balochistan of Iran, as well as, a number of important research centers and libraries in Iran such as, Central library of Planning & Administration Organization, Central library of Cultural Studies & Social Sciences, and Foreign Ministry's General Office of Historical Documents for Diplomacy. Several other libraries of Pune University such as the library of Politics & Public Administration Department, Jayakar library, and the library of National Center of International Security & Defense Analysis have been also helpful.

Data for this research is obtained mainly from primary sources such as original documents in the form of statements, appeals, declarations, monographs, and book-lets mainly in Persian. Besides, some of these sources have been in English and Balochi languages. Interviews of the key figures such as high ranking officials, influential Baloch tribal chiefs, Sunni and Shia clerics, university professors, and political activists, who having first hand information on Baloch politics in Iran, have been conducted throughout the study. Secondary sources used in this research includes, published and unpublished academic and nonacademic materials such as: newspapers, journals,
internationally recognized periodicals, books, and doctorate dissertations. Thus, it is through a collective cooperation and coordination of all these above-mentioned sources, which made this work possible. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this research.

And, last, but by no means the least, I am most grateful to my wife, Farahnaz Yousefi for her outstanding display of patience and understanding of unsociable hours I spent working at home on my thesis. Similarly, I am grateful to my family: my parents Dr. Mohammad Reza and Noorbibi, my brothers Dr. Omid Reza, Amir, Ahsan, and my sister Afsaneh.