PREFACE

The Objective of the present is to critically analyze and study the writings of the Cambridge School historians on Indian Nationalism. A sincere effort on the basis of a time consuming and exhausting study is made in order to prove the relevance and the reliability of the work undertaken by the Cambridge scholar on this subject. The notable issues which are probed with an unbiased approach include, India as one nation or many, the presence of anything called Indian Nationalism, the Indian Freedom Struggle was merely a struggle of the elites to gain power and position, the only relationship between the British-Indian government and the political-parties in India was that of a patron and client, the Indian society as a fragmented one, communal basis of the two nation theory, a simultaneous approach of the Indian masters to develop and exploit the Indian resources and finally the role of the Congress in Indian Freedom Struggle and the regional aspirations vis-a-vis National Struggle beside a number of major and minor issues. The research work would also reflect my keen interest in tracing out and evaluating the legacy of the British rule in the Post-Independence era, on the basis of the government's administrative policies in the past and present.

The whole work is divided into nine chapters. The first chapter paints the picture of the historical background of the Cambridge School on Indian Nationalism. The second chapter deals with the Percival Spear and the myths and the realities are differentiated and classified. From third to sixth chapter, disciples of Percival Spear namely Anil Seal, Judith Brown, John Andrew Gallagher, Gordon Johnson, F.C.R. Robinson, C.J.
Baker and Christopher A. Bayly are covered. The writings of Australian and American historians on Indian Nationalism are covered in the seventh chapter. The eighth chapter reviews some of the writings of the leading Indian historians namely Bipin Chandra, Sumit Sarkar and S.R. Mehrotra, collectively giving the term Indian Response to the Cambridge School. The last chapter sums up all, thus giving clarity to the various ideologies and perceptions, prevalent throughout the Indian Freedom Struggle.

To trace out the original sources, I visited National Archives of India, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, Dwarka Das Library, Tribune Library, State Library, Panjab University Library, Chandigarh, H.P. University Library, Shimla and State Library, Solan.

I can hardly find words to express my gratefulness to my supervisor, Dr. J.S. Dhanaki for his constant encouragement, assistance, advice and personal attention during the whole period of writing this research work.

I am much thankful to Dr. Indu Banga and Dr. R.C. Jauhari for giving me valuable suggestions. I want to thank Dr. J.K. Sharma, Chairman, Department of History, Panjab University, for providing me all the facilities at his disposal.

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