The present thesis embodies the work of the author who has undertaken the study of the various socio-cultural aspects of the Karimnagar region. While primarily dealing with the proto and early history of the region, the thesis also cover the pre-historic background of the region. In the task of exploring the pre-historic sites he received invaluable help from Thakur Raja Ram Singh, an amateur archaeologist and lawyer who also brought to light very important prehistoric sites hitherto unreported. Archaeologically the region in particular was a terra-incognita until a beginning was made during the last century by the discovery of several ash mounds in the north Karnataka by Col. Mackenzie. Subsequently in 1842, Cap. Meadows Taylor discovered the first ground-stone axe belonging to pre-iron age farming community at Lingsugur near Raichur. Later the pioneering efforts of Robert Bruce Fotte have thrown a flood of light over a vast number of mesolithic, neolithic and megalithic sites.

After the earlier investigations of Col. Meadows Taylor (1851) the work was continued by Leonard Munn (1925) Gulam Yazdani (1915-16), Wakefield (1918), Hunt (1924) and Kwaja Mohammad Ahmed (1940).

A few early historical sites especially at Paithan in former Hyderabad State, Kondapur in Medak district and Yeleswaram in Nalgonda district have been excavated by Gulam Yazdani and Kwaja Mohammed Ahmed and Md. Abdul Waheed Khan respectively.
During the years 1968-74 the Department of Archaeology and Museums of the State of Andhra Pradesh conducted large-scale excavations at Peddabankur. Later during 1975 to '77 excavations have been conducted at another early historical site, Dhulikatta, both under the supervision of the author. In the course of the above excavations he availed of the opportunity to extensively explore the Karimnagar region which resulted in the discovery of several proto- and early historical sites. The bewildering mass of cultural relics noticed in the region impelled the author to undertake a systematic study. But due to vastness of cultural horizon the author preferred to confine himself largely to the interpretation of the proto and early historical phases in the present study. Nevertheless, a brief pre-historic background of the region for the above study was felt to be essential and is dealt within a broader geographical framework.

Regarding the neolithic period the author mainly concentrated upon his own excavation at Polakonda in Warangal district, while mentioning at the same time the results of surface explorations by himself and others. The megalithic problem in the region being a little more clear the author dwelt upon his own excavations at Kadambapur and a few others besides other explored sites. Some of the sites mentioned in the thesis such as Agiripalli, Tenneru, Jonnawada, Peddamarur, Uppalapadu
and Chagatur do not actually come into the selected region, however, the author felt the need to include briefly the results of the above excavations so that the reader will have a comparative knowledge of the various megalithic sites excavated in the recent years in Andhra Pradesh and also with a view to focus attention on some of the unreported excavations, conducted by himself and his colleagues under the aegis of the Department of Archaeology and Museums.

Regarding the early historical period there is no dearth of material in the Karimnagar region itself. In the course of his exploratory survey, the author chanced upon early historical sites almost at every alternate village particularly Peddapalli taluk in Karimnagar district and Jangc&n taluk in Warangal district. It is found cumbersome and unnecessary even to briefly mention the nature of each site leave alone presenting the various cultural aspects. Therefore he has restricted himself mainly upon his own excavations at Peddabankur and Dmulikatta which themselves have presented a sufficiently broad picture of the socio, economic and cultural aspects of the region.

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