ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the period of my research work for this thesis and its writing I have been encouraged and helped by a score of learned personalities, friends and well-wishers. At the outset I can not but express my deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed supervisor Dr. Nalini Kant Jha for his insurmountable guidance, painstaking perusal and back-breaking correction work of my draft thesis, amidst his busy academic schedule.

I would express my profound thanks to Dr. Solomon S Gabriel, Dean, the School of International Studies, Pondicherry University from whom I, not only gained the initial motivation for research work, but also his valuable contribution in finalising and registering my research program. He remained a source of inspiration throughout, in the preparation of this work.

I thank all the faculty members and office staff in the School of International Studies and in the Department of Political Science, Pondicherry University, and also to my teaching fraternity in the Department of Historical Studies and Tourism and Travel Management, Tagore (Govt.) Arts College, Pondicherry for their encouragement and help. Besides, I am thankful to Prof. Baskaran, my revered teacher and former Head of Political Science Department of Annamalai University for his being a source of inspiration and encouragement and useful advice with regard to my research work.

I am greatly bound to extend my sincere gratitude to the American Studies Research Centre (ASRC), Hyderabad for its sanction of Teacher-Grant availed by me during July-August, 1995.
It certainly made possible the collection of a vast source materials. I recall in appreciation, productive and illuminating conversations with Dr Kousar A Azam and Dr Ramesh Babu on certain occasions during my sojourn in the ASRC.

The list of acknowledgement would not be complete without a mention for other excellent libraries I made use of, such as Indian Council of World Affairs Library, Nehru Memorial and Museum Library and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Library, New Delhi, the United States information service library, Chennai, the Pondicherry University Library and Romain Rolland Library, Pondicherry. I thank them profusely for having facilitated me to consult records, books, journals etc preserved under their custody.

I am indebted to my friends and well-wishers who helped me in my work Mr B Prabhakaran (Suptd Grade I), Mr D Purushothaman, Guest faculty in Political Science, Mr Murugan Pondicherry University, Mr Jayapal and Mr & Mrs Manavalan for their help in proof-reading and cooperation in other respects. I am equally thankful to Madame N K Jha for her encouragement and hospitality during the writing of this thesis work. I thank Selvi Umadevi who rendered valuable service which enabled me to work hard, especially at the finishing time of my research work.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Ignatius Rajadurai (Prop Micro DTP Centre, Pondicherry) and his faculty Mr K Bharani for their sincerity and promptness in typing this work neatly in a recorded time.

(K.BALASUNDARAM)