I

PREFACE

In the following pages, an attempt has been made, to write a connected and scientific account about the different aspects of the Indian life, as gleaned from the Jain works, written generally between 600 and 1000 A.D. The present Author has tried to utilise original sources and at the same time, the secondary sources have also been consulted.

The first chapter deals with the Polity and Government and it has been shown that the original Jain sources sometimes give us additional information on political systems of the early medieval period. The second chapter, on the Social Life, seeks to analyse critically the various types of information on the early medieval society. It has been demonstrated that the Jain sources can be invaluable help in reconstructing the social life of the post-Gupta and the early medieval periods. Every attempt has been made to compare and contrast the informations, supplied by both the Jain and the non-Jain texts. The third chapter likewise gives the facts about the Cultural Life and it is hoped that the readers will find useful information in this chapter too.

The fourth chapter is on Economic Life. The Jain sources of this period give us interesting information on the problems connected with the economic life of the
people. The next chapter on Religious Life gives a description of the condition of the different religious systems as revealed by the writings of the Jain authors of this period. The last chapter on Historical Geography, it is hoped, will be found useful by the students, interested in this particular subject.

It should here be emphasized that most of the Jain works, of this period are dated and therefore there evidence has some real historical value. The contemporary Jain and non-Jain inscriptions also have been noted.

It is hoped that this dissertation will be found sufficiently useful by the students of ancient Indian history. The present writer also wishes to express her deep sense of gratitude to her guide Dr. A. K. Chatterjee of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture (Calcutta University) and all other teachers of that department.

Dated: 8th November, 1984
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