CHAPTER  I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE

An attempt has been made in the present study to provide an insight into the changing (strengthening or weakening) links within the North-West India, and between it and the neighbouring regions and countries during the period of the Early Mughals. This long period and the vast region has been selected to observe and assess the factors which have been crucial in bringing about spatio-temporal changes in the regional linkages. Instead of simply identifying, plotting and describing the routes (which of course is the main endeavour in this study) an attempt has been made to assess their role in the establishment of regional linkages. An attempt has also been made to analyse the role of physical, economic, social, political and technological factors in the emergence of various regions and the development of regional linkages. Before discussing the scope and objective of this study it seems pertinent to discuss in brief, the relevant concepts and the reasons behind the selection of the vast canvas for this study.

For a better understanding of the structure of this study it is necessary to emphasize the relationship between history and geography. It was the great philosopher Imma-
nuel Kant, who perhaps for the first time realized the strong and very special relationship between history and geography. According to him both history and geography are disciplines involved in describing phenomena, in time and space, respectively. But unfortunately neither historians nor geographers could, until quite recently, appreciate the potential of their disciplines. Instead of studying temporal variation of historical events, historians have kept themselves busy only in the study of political history and geographers have only been concerned with physical phenomena.

The situation changed considerably, after the introduction and establishment of human studies in geography and social and economic studies in history during the last fifty years. Geographers tried to redefine the scope and objective of geography and its relationship with history. They found the definition of geography by Kant as not fully acceptable as it was not possible for them to understand and explain the spatial variation of the phenomena without knowing any thing about its evolution. Their need to understand the temporal change in some of the phenomena gave rise not only to the studies of evolution of the individual phenomenon in geography but also to the development of historical geography.

Before discussing the scope of historical geography it is necessary to mention some thing about two other dis-
Disciplines where history and geography have come very close to one another. Firstly, there is history of geography which deals with the evolution of geography as a subject. The other is known as geography of history in which those geographical factor are identified and described which have been responsible in the evolution of the history of a region. The geographers considered the history of geography as one of the most significant branches of geography while historians found it necessary to discuss the geographical (physical) setting of the region before writing its history. Though both of these branches of history and geography developed quite early, they rarely helped in establishing a close relationship between these two subjects.

The real unification of history and geography came only with the emergence of historical geography, which is defined as the study of the spatial variation of phenomena in time. Historical geography combines history and geography, the only branches of knowledge which are concerned with all phenomena (all other branches of knowledge are concerned only with one phenomenon), since every phenomena exists in time and occupied some space on the surface of the earth. There is no doubt that in order to understand reality phenomena should be studied both in time and space. This is, however, not easy since the required historical information is not always available.

Historical geography has sometimes been defined as the geography of the past. This definition is not incorr-
ect but it certainly reduces the scope of the understanding of the evolution of phenomena in time, which is not possible without a comparison with any other point of time. Though the significance and importance of the geography of any past period can not be denied, it is however desirable to study the spatial variation of phenomena either by taking a longer period of time or by selecting two or more points of time of historical significance.

It should be emphasized here that historical geography, unlike other branches of geography, is not a branch of geography but it is geography complete in itself. Theoretically speaking, it is possible to write down the geographies of any number of past periods. For example it is possible, write down the physical, social, economic and political geography of India during the reigns of Ashoka or Akbar. However, the gap between theory and practice in historical geography is immense.

Conceptually the present study, besides being an exercise in historical geography, is also a regional study employing the holistic approach in geography. Humboldt and Ritter, two great German geographers, realised the need and importance of the study of inter-relationships and inter-dependence of the phenomena in geography as early as the first half of the nineteenth century. According to them phenomena could not and should not be studied in isolation. They believed in the "Unity of Nature". Their massage re-
ached the geographers but about a hundred years after their death. However geographers soon realized, and correctly so, that instead of studying individual phenomena geographers should study the phenomena in relation to one another and in relation to the surface of the earth. This is the holistic approach of geography.

Like historical geography, the holistic approach in geography also presented many methodological problems to its students. For instance, it is not easy to understand the real nature of the inter-relationship and inter-dependence of the phenomena without sufficient knowledge of these phenomena. Moreover an assessment and analysis of the role of space in the distribution pattern of the phenomena requires a comprehensive understanding of the area under investigation. But this is real geography.

Geographers have successfully tried the holistic approach by taking smaller regions as areas of their study. There are some really good regional geographies where the inter-relationship and inter-dependence of the phenomena have been studied in relation to space remarkably well, thus providing a complete and authentic picture of the region.

The main objectives of this study hence are

1) to understand the regional structure of North-West India during a long and historically significant period by identifying and describing the structure
of different types of regions,

ii) to assess and analyse the influence and impact of various factors on the regional linkages during the period under study,

iii) to identify, plot and critically describe all the available travel accounts of the period in order to understand the spatio-temporal variations of the routes of North-West India during the period under study.

1.2 SURVEY OF LITERATURE

Unfortunately very little work has been done in India in the field of historical geography, perhaps due to the nature of the subject. The paucity of the relevant historical source material, which can be used for the reconstruction of the geography of the past periods, is usually given as the reason for lack of interest in the field both by historians and geographers. There is some truth in it but perhaps a more important reason for this lack is not the absence of contemporary sources but a want of training in the techniques, tools and source materials of historical geography.

In the reconstruction of the geography of any past period, historians, usually find it difficult to visualize the real significance of space. They even find it difficult to identify and plot the phenomena of geographical
significance. The plotting of maps, both mental and on paper, is perhaps the most difficult job for them while writing historical geography. This weakness is even apparent in the works of some of the renowned historians. The geographers on the other hand, lack historical knowledge of the past periods and of the contemporary sources and hence find it difficult to research in historical geography. For them the past is alien territory. This attitude is mainly due to the fact that human studies in geography started very late and one can still find a large number of traditional geographers, who may prefer to study the evolution of dead land forms rather than devote attention to the understanding of the evolution of any socially relevant phenomena. This is unfortunate.

The situation is not, however, hopeless. During the last twenty-five years or so, some significant change has come in the attitude of both historians and geographers as they have produced some really useful works in the field of historical geography. For the Mughal period the most significant work was conceptualized at A.M.U. Aligarh by Prof. Nurul Hasan, Prof. Moonis Raza and Dr (Mrs) K.L. Hasan, who initiated the grand work for the delineation of the political-administrative boundaries of the Mughal Empire on the basis of Ain-i-Akbari. Many maps were prepared and presented in the History Congress. But due to the unfortunate and early death of Dr (Mrs) K.L. Hasan and the demand of the
other scholars outside Aligarh, the work could not be completed. However, it attracted the attention of many historians and geographers. Prof. Irfan Habib prepared, *An Atlas of the Mughal Empire* (1982) which is of immense value to the students of history and geography. Prof Aijazuddin Ahmad, wrote numerous articles on the different aspects of the Mughal historical geography. Prof Moonis Raza, apart from writing articles on the various themes of historical geography, prepared a detailed, *Atlas of Akbar's Suba of Kabul*. This atlas provides maps and detailed notes on every aspect of the geography of the suba. (I assisted Prof. Moonis Raza in this project). Prof J.E. Schwartzberg, in the meanwhile has published a well designed and well documented, *A Historical Atlas of South Asia* (1978) and Susan Gole came out with her useful compilation of *Early Maps of India*.

Some other works on historical geography which helped and influenced the present study, are Alexander Cunningham's, *Ancient Geography of India* (1871); Muzaffar Ali's, *The Geography of Puranas*; M.R. Haig's, *Indus Delta Country* (1887); Thomas Holdich's, *The Gates of India* (1910); and James Rannell's, *Atlas* and Memoir. These books not only provided much required information about some regions of historical significance but also helped in the identification of many places referred to in the contemporary sources.

Some basic history books, which were found very useful in the understanding of contemporary social, economic and
political conditions of the period are, K.M. Ashraf's, *Life and Conditions of the People of Hindustan* (1959); Irfan Habib's, *Agrarian System of Mughal India* (1963); W.H. Moreland's *From Akbar to Aurangzeb a Study in Indian Economic History* (1923); H.K. Naqvi's *Urbanization and Urban Centres Under the Great Mughals* (1972); and R.P. Tripathi's *Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire* (1972).

Some of the above mentioned books, were the pioneering studies in economic, social and political histories of the Mughal period and for the first time provide the history of the common people rather than only glorify the rulers. These studies also gave birth to genuine studies in economic and social history of India. The studies in Economic history of India, made it necessary for historians to devote some time to the study of the trade and transport links between India and various other countries.

Attempts were also made to understand the condition of the roads as well as of travel and transport during the Mughal period. The most significant of these attempts is the book by A.K.M. Farooque entitled *Roads and Communications in Mughal India* (1977). Farooque, tried to study the general conditions of the road and communications during the Mughal period without co-relating it with socio-economic and political condition of this long period. Though the work is good in its own field but seems to lead us nowhere. Scholars also tried to reconstruct routes linking various regions but perhaps the most detailed study was made by
H.C. Verma in his book, *Medieval Routes to India: Baghdad to Delhi* (1978). The book deals basically with the pre-Mughal period and a lot of information about the routes has been given. But unfortunately this information is rather disorganised. The main weakness of this otherwise well documented book, however, is the near absence route maps made to scale of the period under study. The description of a route without a map creates many problems and solves very few. However, these studies show the interest of the historians in the studies of roads and routes.

Keeping in view the inadequacy of earlier studies an attempt has been made here to reconstruct the route-maps of the Early Mughal period in one of the most crucial regions of India. These route maps will provide much desired knowledge of the actual routes, as described by the people who travelled on them at different points of time during the period under study. These routes have also not been studied in isolations but have been related to other socio-economic phenomena operated in the region.

1.3 THE REGION

The delineation of the North-West India during the period under study is not an easy job as the boundaries of India were changing frequently throughout this period. From the times of Babar's conquest of the Kabul region in 1504 to Jahangir's death in 1627, the concept of India in
general and what is known as its north-west in particular has changed considerably. This constant change in the boundaries made it necessary for us to identify the areas/regions which in various phases of the early Mughal history fell into the domain of this study.

At the time of Babar's conquest of the Kabul region (1504) the whole North-West India excepting the Punjab region was outside the Empire of Delhi Sultan. Babar defeated Ibrahim Lodi in 1526, to establish Mughal rule in India and with this conquest Kabul became a part of India. After the defeat of Humayun by Sher Shah in 1540, though Kabul and Qandahar remained with the Mughals, but were outside the domain of the kings of Hindustan. When Humayun came to India in 1554 as the conqueror, Kabul was in his possession and remained with the Mughals (but not necessarily under the direct rule of the Mughal King of Hindustan) throughout the period under study. Effective consolidation of North-West India started only after the death of Akbar's brother Mirza Hakim in 1585. The Kabul, which was in the charge of Mirza Hakim, was annexed to the Mughal Empire in 1585, Kashmir in 1589, Sind or the Thatta region in 1591 and Qandahar and Baluchistan in 1595. The boundaries of North-West India reached its maximum extent in 1595 and remained so for more than 25 years.

It seems proper to delineate the boundaries of North-West India on the basis of Ain-i-Akbari, which provides
sufficient information regarding the extent and boundaries of the Subas and Sarkars of Hindustan during the times of Akbar. Thus, by taking 1595 as the base-year for delineating the boundaries of North-West India we find that the region consisted of the subas of Kabul, Lahor and Multan. Though, it seems incorrect to include Sind or the Thatta region in North-West India, but apart from administrative reasons there is some geographical justification to include it in this study. The varied region lying between Kashmir to Lari Bandar and Hindu Kush to Sutlej and beyond, belongs to one river basin, that of the Indus. Thus to include the Sind region in this study, geographically also is justified.

The North West India, during the Early Mughals hence synchronized with the Indus river basin, excluding the areas lying north and east of the Kashmir, which were never conquered by the Mughal kings of India. Apart from the Indus basin, Qandahar which lies outside the Indus basin, has also been included in the area under study, as it became a sarkar of suba of Kabul during the times of Akbar. Moreover, the Qandahar region played a significant role in the socio-cultural and economic development of the region during the period under study.

North-West India was perhaps the most important region of the country not only during the period under study but since the earliest times. The whole history of India, political, socio-cultural and even economic, had always been greatly influenced by the political developments in its
North-West, prior to the conquest of the country by the Europeans, who came by sea routes. The impact of socio-cultural development taking place in Central Asia, Persia and West Asia reached India through its North West.

The trans-continental communication system of Asia and Europe, connecting China with West Asia and Europe leaves India alone - but not altogether. The main route passed across to Hindu Kush and Pamirs through the valleys of Syr-Darya and Amu Derya and then from the shores of Caspian and Azerbaizen to Western Asia. There was, however, a feeder route, along the Kabul Valley, connecting India. That is why Subbarao considers it justified to treat the Indus Basin as a peripheral region of the ancient Cradle of civilization in Western Asia. It will not be incorrect to say that prior to the emergence of Europeans on the scene what ever impact of nomadic out burst reached India, reached through its north west. It made this region more dynamic culturally but less stable politically.

The first great civilization of the sub-continent developed in the Indus Valley. This civilization had trading contacts with Sumeria and possibly with other great civilizations of the time. The impact of nomadic Aryans was also vigorously felt in this region. When from Indus Valley Aryans migrated to Gangetic plains, they were no more nomads.

In 326 B.C. Alexander the Great, after defeating various Punjab princes, reached his farthest east on the
Beas. In fact, Alexander's raid was into the Indian satrapies of Persian King. The satrapies formed along the Indus, however, was ceded by Alexander's successor Seleucus Nikator to Chandragupta Maurya. It was Vinder Chandragupta's grandson, Asoka, the Mauryan Empire stretched from the Hindu Kush to Brahmaputra and well beyond the Krishna to the Penner.

Around the beginning of the Christian era renewed incursions from the north-west were made by Sakas, Parthians, the Yueh Chi or Kushans. Sakas in the first century B.C. descended on India, through the Bolan Pass and occupied Sind. However, they were expelled in 57 B.C. Though the Sakas were driven off, the Yueh Chi who had settled down in the valleys of Hindu Kush began to make their power felt in India. Under Kanishka, their empire extended to Mathura.

The Huns, who overturned many established societies in Europe, had little success in India though their pressure was continuously felt in this region for over two centuries. After the Huns the next serious invasion was that of Muhammad Bin Qasim on Sind under the orders of the Khalif of Baghdad in 712. The Arabs attempted to penetrate into Rajasthan from the land side but failed. Thus the impact of their conquest remained limited to the Sind region.

Mahmud Ghazni, son of Subuktigin who was a Turkish slave, conducted at least seventeen plundering raids (generally via Bannu and Isakhail region) on India between 1000 and 1030. He added North-West India to his empire and enriched his treasury by looting wealthy temples of Mathura.
and Somnath (Kathiawad).

The conquest of the Ganges Valley, following the invasion of Mohammad Ghori, by Kutubuddin starts a new chapter in Indian history. By dynastic accident the Afghan-Punjab relationship was broken in 1206 and the Sultanate of Delhi took form. The Khiljis, the Tughalaks and Lodis who established their rule in India were Central Asian Turks, who settled down in India as exclusively Indian rulers with no interest outside.

Like earlier Central Asian rulers Mughals also established their supremacy in the Kabul region before establishing the Mughal Empire in India. Akbar knew the trend of the movement of earlier invaders so after solving the problems of surrounding regions, tried to block the routes of migration of the north-west by consolidating his power in the region. Thus for more than hundred years Mughals could rule the country without any disturbance from the North-West.

1.4 THE PERIOD (1504-1627)

The period of the Early Mughals was perhaps the most eventful and crucial in the annals of Indian history. It was during this period that one of the most stable and strong empire was established in India. The period saw the advent of alien Babar from Central Asia through Kabul and the establishment of an empire in India in 1526, which lasted for fifteen years, as his son Humayun was defeated
by Sher Shah. Humayun again came to power in 1554 but died soon after, leaving the empire of Hindustan in some what uncertain political conditions. Akbar re-established the Mughal Empire in India. He not only established an Empire but made it truly Indian in character. Jahangir further strengthened the empire by following the policies of Akbar.

The Mughal Empire during the reign of Akbar and Jahangir not only became politically strong but also became economically prosperous and socially integrated. The internal socio-economic stability and the strength of the army also made it possible for the Mughals to establish friendly relations with the neighbouring countries. Some of the most significant developments which made this period most crucial and remarkable may be summed up as follows.

Akbar started the work of consolidating the empire from the very beginning of his reign. However it was only after 1585 that he could annex most of the regions of North-West India to the Mughal Empire. The Kabul region, which had earlier remained more or less independent of the kings of Hindustan, under younger Mughal princes, was permanently included in the Mughal Empire in 1585. Kashmir was formally conquered in 1589, while Sind was annexed to the Mughal Empire in 1591. After the conquest of Qandahar and Baluchistan in 1595 the boundaries of North West India reached its maximum extent.

With the consolidation of the Mughal Empire in India, the economy of the country improved considerably. The poli-
tical stability provided by the Mughal administration gave required incentive to people to produce more as the new avenues were opened for trade and commercial activities. During this period many new areas came under cultivation, perhaps, with the encouragement of the government. The agricultural production increased due to a more reasonable revenue system. The manufacturing industries benefitted more than agriculture from the political stability in the country and friendly relations with the neighbours. Though there is a difference of opinion among the historians on the extent of the development of industries but certainly during this period India became a pre-eminent exporter of manufactured goods, though her technology was remarkably backward in comparison with other advanced civilizations of the period especially China and Western Europe. The higher production, political stability, friendly relations with neighbours, and socio-cultural integration in the country, increased the volume of trade and commercial activities and further strengthened the economy of the country.

It was during this period that the whole socio-cultural atmosphere of the country changed by the liberal policies of Akbar and Jahangir. The social integration in the country was mainly the result of Akbar's deep rooted secular policies. He established his image of a king above all the sectarian considerations. Akbar not only established permanent ties with the Rajputs but he also tried to promote greater understanding among all the communities of
the country. He abolished the *jizyah* on Hindus. The pilgrim tax on bathing at holy places such as Prayag and Banaras, was also abolished and the practice of forcibly converting prisoners of war to Islam was put to an end. This obviously strengthened the foundations of the empire as it was based on equal rights to all citizens, irrespective of their religious beliefs. Akbar's open and inquisitive mind gave rise to an outburst of many sided cultural activity in India. The traditions in the field of architecture, painting, literature and music created during the period of Akbar and Jahangir, deeply influenced the later generations. Thus, during this period conditions in the country were perfect for socio-cultural interaction among the people belonging to different regions, religions, linguistic groups, castes, creeds etc.

An attempt was also made by Akbar and Jahangir to develop friendly relations with the neighbouring countries. However, these relations with the neighbours developed only after they realized the strength of Mughals in India. The Mughals were treated with respect by their arch rival Uzbeks, after the establishment of a powerful Mughal Empire in India. The same is true in case of Persia. The relation between Mughals and Uzbeks were further strengthened when the Mughals lost all the interest in their traditional homeland, which was then under the control of Uzbeks, after the death of Humayun. Between India and Persia, Qandahar was the only become of contention. During the reign of Akbar
and Jahangir, Mughals found it desirable to possess the strategically located Qandahar, on which Persians also had claims. It is interesting to observe that both India and Persia were interested in Qandahar but not at the cost of their friendly relations with one another. In fact, Qandahar changed hands during the period under study frequently but without much blood-shed. It seems they realized that close and friendly relations were necessary for their development of trade and commercial activities between their countries.

Thus it will not be incorrect to say that the period of the Early Mughals was one of the most glorious periods of Indian history. It was during this period that India became one of the most advanced and prosperous countries of the world.

1.5 THE SOURCES

This study, like other works in Historical Geography is mainly based on the contemporary chronicles. However, to supplement and critically examine the information of these chronicles, some basic historical and geographical books have also been used, maps of later periods have also been used. It seems relevant to discuss here in brief the utility and significance of the main chronicles used as the basic source material for this study.

The importance of Babar's autobiography, the Babar
Nama, as a source material for the present study is immense. Babar, who is considered as one of the most illustrious princes ever to sit upon a throne in Asia, apart from qualities of a statesman and general, had a lively good sense and enquiring mind. There was no aspect of art or nature, as revealed to the man of action of that day, that escaped the activity of his research. The accuracy and clearness of Babar's geographical description are so arresting that even today no better general introduction can be sought to unravel the tangled territories lying between the plains of the Oxus and the Indus, where he wandered for more than 20 years. He seems to have noticed everything, the flowers, the trees, the birds, the harsh hills and beautiful river valleys, the bright skies, the rain and snow and tempests, the names of men and tribes. Babar's description of the regions through which he passed, is so comprehensive that it helped in providing a complete geographical understanding of otherwise little known regions.

The utility of Abul Fazl's monumental works, Akbar Nama and Ain-i-Akbari, as a source material for this study has also been immense. Ain-i-Akbari, like Akbar Nama, was compiled by the great scholar, on the orders of his patron, Emperor Akbar. Abul Fazl, took many years to prepare Ain, which was formally completed in 1595. The geographical portion of the work (The Account of the Twelve Subas) was brought up to date in Akbar's 40th regnal year (1595-96).
The *Ain* offers a detailed description of every *suba*, its limits, rivers, mountains, mines, major towns, crafts products, chiefs and revenues. Statistical tables then follow. The tables contain full lists of the *mahals/parganas* or *tumans*, under each *sarkar* (division) of the *suba*. Entries are provided against each *mahal* for forts, measured area, estimated revenues, revenue alienated through grants, castes, tribes/clans, of the local dominant class (*Zamindars, bumis*) and number of their retainers (horse and foot). However, in case of some of the newly conquered territories of North-West India, like Thatta, Qandahar, Pakli, Swad and Baluchistan, many of these informations have not been given.

Apart from compiling the encyclopedia of the Mughal Empire, the *Ain-i-Akbari*, Abul Fazl wrote the monumental *Akbar Nama*, which is not only a detailed history of Akbar's time but also provides sufficiently good account of the periods of Babar and Humayun. *Akbar Nama*, contains very useful account of the important political events of the period and also describes some of Akbar's journeys in North-West India in minute details. With the help of these descriptions it has been possible to reconstruct maps of various routes. Abul Fazl, also tried to describe the journeys of Humayun from India to Persia, from Persia to Qandahar and Kabul and from Kabul to Balkh and Badakhshan etc. The geographical description of those regions and routes in *Akbar Nama*, is detailed and fairly accurate because Abul Fazl visited them with the king.
Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, the autobiography of Jahangir, provide a lively picture of India and is a supplement to Akbar Nama. According to some scholars, Jahangir's Memoirs' are not inferior in interest even to those of Babar. As a lover of nature, Jahangir provides a detailed description of the regions and the routes through which he passed. In this study, his journeys to Kashmir and Kabul, which he described in detail have been plotted and discussed. Like Babar Nama, Ain-i-Akbari, Akbar Nama, Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri has been used to reconstruct the socio-economic and political conditions of the period under study.

In the best of the Mughal tradition, Babar's cousin, Mirza Haider Dughlat also wrote his autobiography which is known as Tarikh-i-Rashidi. For its historical narrative, it is considered better than any of the contemporary books. Though Mirza Haider's geographical knowledge and understanding of the mountainous regions of Central Asia and surrounding territories seems to be remarkable, he did not describe the routes of North-West India in detail. In this study, however, two routes linking the Kashmir Valley with surrounding territories have been reconstructed on the basis of Tarikh-i-Rashidi.

Apart from these major sources, many other contemporary books were also consulted and a few of them were found suitable to be used to reconstruct the route maps. Akbar, in fact, asked some people to write the historical account of the period when Humayun was in exile. Thus we have the
accounts of Jauhar Aftabchi, Gulbadan Begum and Bayazid. Jauhar Aftabchi, one of Humayun's ewer-bearer, (valet) companion and intimate servant, and who accompanied Humayun to Persia, provides useful information of his journeys in his memoirs, *Tazkirat-ul Waqiat*. Humayun's sister, Gulbadan Begum was requested by Akbar to note down what ever she knew about the doings of her father Babar and her brother Humayun. She provides some interesting information for the period between Humayun's exile from India to his recapturing Delhi. However, the maps based on the description of Humayun's journey from India to Persia by Jauhar and Gulbadan Begum have not been included in this study as the king did not follow the normally trespassed route due to political pressures.

Masum Bhakkari's, *Tarikh-i-Masumi*, has also been used for the reconstruction of a map. Masum's description of Khan-i-Khanan's expedition to Sind (Thatta region) in which he also participated is quite detailed to be used as basic source material for the reconstruction of the route-map. Masum Bhakkari also provides good geographical description of the Sind region.

Apart from the above sources, travel accounts of European travellers and traders have also been used in this study as main sources. The account of Nicholas Withington and William Finch are useful, for they not only provide detailed description of the routes on which they travelled but also throw light on the real problems of the journey
for the common people (which the Europeans were at that time) during the times of Jahangir.

In order to understand the geography and history of the various regions of the North-West India various books, journals, gazetteers and maps have also been consulted which were mentioned in the bibliography. The general books on India, Pakistan and Afghanistan were not sufficient to provide the information required to verify that given in the contemporary sources, hence texts on the regional geography and history of the region were consulted in large number.

For the identification of places, mountain ranges, rivers, tribes and other geographical features a lot of effort has been made and much time has been wasted. The reconstruction of the route maps, in the absence of detailed maps of most of the region (due to political and strategic reasons) was found to be really difficult. However, with the help of gazetteers, district hand-books, atlases, maps prepared during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and travel accounts of later travellers, the work of identification has been done with significant success.

1.6 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

In this chapter an attempt has been made to assess the need and relevance of the present study. The scope and objective of the study has also been discussed. To empha-
size the absence of authentic studies on the nature of inter-regional linkages in India during the period of the Early Mughals, a brief survey of existing literature has been made. After delineating the boundaries of North-West India, an attempt has been made to highlight the significance of this region during the times of the Early Mughals. The role of North-West in the evolution of socio-political and economic history of India has also been discussed in brief. After defining the period of the Early Mughals, its relevance and importance in the annals of Indian history has been assessed. Finally, relative significance of the various chronicles, which have been used as the basic source material has also been discussed.

In Chapter II, the spatial structure of the region has been discussed in detail in order to understand the inter-relationship and inter-dependence of various phenomena, within the various regions of North-West India. Various aspects of the region's spatial structure, viz. physical, socio-economic and politico-administrative, which directly influenced inter-regional linkages have been identified. In the first section of the chapter, the whole region has been divided into physiographic regions and sub-regions and the significant physiographic features of these regions have been discussed. While doing so, an attempt has also been made to identify regions with suitable physical conditions for economic development.

In the second section, North-West India and its sur-
rounding territories have been divided into three major cultural regions; the areas of attraction, the areas of relative isolation and the areas of isolation. This division emerged due to the process of cultural evolution within these regions. While discussing this cultural evolution within these regions an attempt has also been made to highlight the influence of physical and economic factors in the emergence of these regions. In this section, the distribution of the tribal groups have been outlined and the distinct tribal homelands in the areas of isolation have also been identified.

In the third section of the chapter the whole region has been divided into Political-Administrative divisions. This division has been done mainly on the basis of Ain-i-Akbari. During the times of Akbar, North-West India consisted of three subas, viz., Kabul, Lahor and Multan. Each suba was divided into sarkars and each sarkar into parganas/mahals or tumans. While discussing the extent and boundaries of the subas, sarkars and tumans an attempt has been made to analyse the impact of physical and cultural phenomena in the emergence of these political-administrative regions. Finally, between inter-relationship and inter-dependence, physical, cultural (socio-economic) and political phenomena has been established.

In Chapter III linkages have been analysed as regional imperatives. As the volume and nature of the flow of goods and services and movement of people depends upon the factors like the economic base, physical structure of the
region, contemporary political conditions and level of technology, was found necessary to study these factors in some detail. The chapter has been divided into three major sections. In the first section, the bases of the regional linkages have been discussed. The significant features of the economic base of whole region have been identified and an attempt has been made to highlight the regional variations in economic development which might have lead to the flow of goods and services from one region to another. Secondly, these changes in the political conditions of the period have been discussed which could have been responsible in strengthening or weakening the inter-regional linkages during the period under study. Finally, the prevailing social conditions during the period have been discussed to provide an understanding of the impact of growing social integration and cultural synthesis among the people of the country in general and of the region in particular.

In the second section of this chapter, physical determinants of the regional linkages have been discussed. An attempt has been made to identify and locate the popular and known mountain passes of the region. With the help of the contemporary sources, the relative significance of these passes has been established. Like the passes in the mountainous region, the river fords in the plain regions have determined the flow of traffic and so river fords have also been identified with the help of the contemporary source. An attempt has been made to observe seasonal varia-
tion in the use of mountain passes and the river-fords.

In the last section of the chapter, technological determinants of regional linkages have been discussed; firstly with the help of contemporary sources, the location of the bridges have been plotted. An attempt has also been made to classify the bridges of the region into various categories on the basis of the technology and material used in the making of these bridges. The technology of the construction and the maintenance of roads, during the period under study has also been discussed. Means of land and water transport have also been discussed as they also determined the volume of trade and extent of communication in the region. This provides the back drop for the analysis of the possible regional linkages which must have determined the level of interaction among the various regions of North-West India.

In Chapter IV, on the basis of the description of the travels in the contemporary sources, the route maps have been reconstructed. Each route, has been identified, plotted and described after arranging the travel accounts chronologically. This became necessary when more than one description of a particular route is available. While describing these routes an attempt has been made to highlight the historical, socio-economic and strategical significance of the route. Alternative routes, between two regions have also been suggested and their advantages and problems have also been mentioned.
After all the possible route maps of the period under study were plotted, they were classified into four broad categories. In the first section the routes linking North-West India with the surrounding territories have been discussed. While describing these routes, an attempt has been made to highlight the changing socio-political conditions of North West India and of the surrounding territories as most of the expedition on these routes have been made at the time of the changing fortunes of these regions.

The routes linking various regions of North West India have been divided into three categories; the routes of the first order, the routes of the second order and the routes of the third order. This ordering has been done on the basis of the significance of these routes. The routes which connected areas of attraction, without passing through negative areas, have been identified as the routes of first order. While describing these routes an attempt has been made to highlight the problems of travel on these routes and the role of the Mughal administration in making them safe for travel. The most important route i.e. the Agra/Delhi-Lahor-Kabul, has been discussed after making the route maps in sectors. The routes of second order linked the areas of relative isolation (generally newly conquered territories) with the areas of attraction and while describing them an attempt has been made to highlight the efforts which the Mughals made in developing these routes. The routes of the third order linked two areas of relative isolation and passed through negative areas and were really
difficult to traverse. While describing them, the difficulties of travel have been assessed. The relative significance of various routes has also been established.