PREFACE

The present study boasts of no final word on on the debate between individualism and collectivism, nor does it claim to have done justice to the unending polemics between individualists and collectivists in the philosophy of social sciences. It, however, attempts to throw some light on the futility of the arguments for or against individualism, when it is only too obvious that there is more agreement than disagreement between individualists and collectivists. It is only in their logical extension that a clear dichotomy occurs.

My approach has been, therefore, at first, a cautious defence of methodological individualism and later on a reformulation of the thesis, and subsequently, a defence of reductionism.

There are, I am aware of, a large number of 'loose ends' in the present study, because, very often I had to enter into arguments and debates in disciplines, I was not equipped to deal with.

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