PREFACE

The present study is a modest attempt on "Politics of factionalism - A Study of Kurnool District in Andhra Pradesh". This study is slightly different from the earlier studies on factionalism in the discipline of Political Science. It is different because it has not dealt with the factions in political parties as has been done by conventional political scientists. This deals with the village grass-root factions and their linkages with political parties so as to analyse their impact on politics in the district. In the process it has attempted to analyse the politics of entire district in the framework of factionalism, and thereby attempted to arrive at macro-level generalizations on the politics of the district. Thus it is the study on Micro-level phenomenon (Village factions) to understand the macro-level politics. It is also different from other studies in the sense that it attempts to analyse the linkages between faction, violence, and elections, which is the product of particular culture, known as feudal-patriarchal dominant violent culture having historical roots. Hence the factions or factionalism in the study has to be viewed as armed factions or violent factionalism. In other words landlords armed gangs, or armed gangsterism unlike the studies done on factions by sociologists, constitute the reference point. The main concern has been how this violent factional politics continue to enjoy legitimacy in the liberal-democratic political system based on electoral politics which are supposed to be not only channelising the contending interests into normal political channels but also continuously democratise and secularise the over all processes of power.