ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Professor K.D. Baj, former Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History Cult and Archaeology, Saugar University, who supervised this work its earlier stage and to his successor Professor A.B.L. Awashti D.Litt., who guided me in the final stages of this work. They have always been kind and generous with useful suggestions. Prof. Awashti was kind enough to go through the manuscript in spite of his preoccupations.

My great indebtedness is to my teacher Professor U.V. Singh, Ph.D., Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology, B.N. Chakraborty University, Kurukshetra, who not only introduced me to this subject but also guided, encouraged and helped me in all possible ways.

To Dr. H.D. Sankalia, Dr. S.B. Deo, Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, Reader, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Saugar University; Dr. K.N. Misra, Head of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, Jiwaji University, Gwalior and Pandit Sunderlal Tripathi, Jagdalpur, I am deeply indebted for their valuable suggestions.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. D.S. Shrivastava, Asstt. Professor, Department of Geography, Saugar University and Shri Jayaram Panda, Asstt. Prof. in Economics, Jamia University.
I am greatly indebted to my sister Smt. Veena Jha, formerly Juvenile Magistrate, Jagdalpur, my brother-in-law Shri S.D. Jha, formerly Government Pleader, Jagdalpur, Bastar and now Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law, Government of India, New Delhi, and my elder brother Shri A.D. Jha, Advocate, Jagdalpur, without whose sustained help and blessings this work would have not been completed.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government of M.P. and to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for the award of scholarship and financial assistance respectively. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Shri Devi Sahaya Shukla (Mannu Bhaiya), Shri V.B. Pandeya, formerly Malaria Officer, Bastar, late Shri Shiva Charan Naga, Sarvashri Sukumar Thakur, R.C. Dube, my brother Alok Jha, Advocate, Bhagwan Singh Thakur, Sudhir Dixit, R.S. Shukla (Bastar) and his brother for the one or the other kinds of help rendered by them in the field.

My thanks are also due to Shri Pradeep Shukla for preparing the photographs and to Shri G.F. Rai and R.P. Patel for neat and clean typing of the script.

Last but not the least, I must thank to my wife Smt. Anjali Jha, M.A., who not only arranged the illustrations, corrected the typed manuscript but also rendered me great encouragements by her unending patience and unfatigued cooperation.

(V.D. Jha)