ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis is a result of many years of intense research. In this endeavour, I have been benefited greatly from the help of friends and individuals for which an expression of gratitude is called for. If I have to name a single person, for the successful completion of this study, it is none other than my supervisor Dr K.P. Vijaya Lakshmi. Throughout the study, especially at the most critical juncture, she encouraged and supported my efforts with utmost kindness and understanding. But for her, I would not have been able to complete this study. I am fortunate indeed to work under her academic guidance and supervision. I thank her from the depth of my heart. I shall be ever grateful to her.

I will be failing in my duty, if I do not express my gratitude to Prof. B.K. Srivasatava who supervised my work at its initial stages. His scholastic guidance helped me immensely to improve my research. Similarly I owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Archana Upadahyay, Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University, Assam for her extraordinary support and invaluable propositions. I also thank all the faculty members of the Centre for American and West European Studies and the staff of the libraries of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, United States Information Service (American Centre), New Delhi, American Studies Research Centre (Indo-American Centre) Hyderabad, Indian Council for World Affairs, New Delhi, Indian Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi, The Nehru Memorial Museum Library, New Delhi. I also thank Miss. Bindu of Mudra Offset Press, Thodupuzha for carrying out the entire word processing with dedication and commitment.

Individuals to whom I owe gratitude include: Prof. Joseph Augustine, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, Dr. Srinibas Dhal, Sambalpur University, Orissa, M.K. Ansari, P.J. Antony, Appu Joseph Jose, Mohammed Hussein, Gigi Joseph, and Sr. Jessy Joseph. Among all
the friends one name stands out – Sri. P.T. Jose. He helped me in every stage of my research by extending moral support and intellectual input with infectious enthusiasm. He meticulously read the entire manuscript and critiqued it. His comments and suggestions have been indispensable. Heartfelt gratitude to my beloved friend.

I am also greatly indebted to my family especially to my father Augustine Pettapuzha and mother Thresiama Augustine, brothers: Mathew, Robins and Dominic. They not only shared my trials and triumphs but also stood behind me as pillars of strength. Susan Joseph, my wife, irrespective of her role as an Assistant Executive Engineer, shouldered all the family responsibilities alone during my long absence from home. My little children, Augustine and Maria merrily tolerated an absentee father. I acknowledge my everlasting debt for their loyalty, forbearance and commitment. Thank you for all.

New Delhi
September 2002

(JOSE P.A.)