Acknowledgements

In the preparation of this thesis I have been fortunate to have had the assistance of a number of individuals and institutions, and now is the time to convey my appreciation to each of them.

My supervisor Dr. Alka Acharya has been an inspiration to me as a teacher and as a wonderful person. This work is testimony to the long hours spent discussing Chinese foreign policy, its history and various corollaries. It has been an immense pleasure to work with her and I wish, this work is just the beginning of many more things to come. I hold the highest personal regard for her, for her abilities, patience, and grasp over the issues involved. Her dedication to my work has been a very valuable experience that I will cherish for a long time to come.

To the Centre for East Asian Studies, JNU, which has moulded me into a researcher goes my sincere gratitude as it is here I have been exposed and schooled on the subject of International Relations with the specific focus on China.

Prof. G.P. Deshpande, the renowned scholar and China expert, has inspired me to delve below the surface, and every time I stumble upon a relatively unknown yet interesting detail, it reminds me of the course on Chinese foreign policy he had taken for my batch, which used to be peppered with anecdotes and the like. I consider it a great honour to have studied under him and value every conversation I have had with him. Dr. Madhu Bhalla, I thank for clarifying questions on the Chinese political system during my course work with her. Dr. Sabaree Mitra, and Dr. Hemant Adlakha, I thank for the warmth and concern they have shown from time to time which was indeed very heartening. In my case studies, I have included several maps and tables providing relevant information, and for these a very special mention must be made of Salam Khan, who has been tremendously helpful. I would also like to thank Ms. Kamlesh Jain, the Documentation Officer of the Chinese division who has been very supportive.

I would like to thank profusely The Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) – the only specialised research institute in South Asia focussing on China, for having given me the exposure into the world of academic research. The material available at the ICS gave me a deep insight, not just into the Foreign Policy of China, but other fields as well. At the ICS, I considered myself fortunate to have met the senior most members of the academic community researching China in the country today. My
eternal gratitude goes to Prof. Giri Desingkar, Prof. Mira Sinha Bhattacharjea, Ambassador C.V. Ranganathan, Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty; Prof. Patricia Oberoi and Ambassador Vinod Khanna, who from time to time have ensured that my progress is unhindered.

A vital factor that influenced my findings has been my four month long field trip to China, facilitated by the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund. I thank Mr. Goyal of the Fund for the efficient manner in which it was arranged. For the duration of my field trip, I was affiliated with the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS), who went out of their way to make me feel comfortable. The SASS deserves all praise for facilitating my research and providing the opportunity to have innumerable meetings with academicians, scholars and students. My sincere appreciation goes to Li Yihai, Prof. Yang Jian, Prof. Wang Hailang, Prof. Zhang Xinhua, Prof. Yan Keijia and to Li Li and Jin Caihong. While at Beijing, I had the opportunity to avail of the library facilities at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) -now housed in a baroque building that used to be the former Austro-Hungarian Empire’s embassy- I would like to thank Zhang Dunmin, Shao Xiao’ou and Liu Zhenxi at the CASS, and Hu Shaocong and Rong Xing of the CIIS, who encouraged me to have a run of their excellent library, which to my surprise was reaching down six levels underground! Alok Dimri, my old classmate from CPS/JNU deserves a mention for guiding me around Sanlitun while at Beijing and encouraging me to research on Chinese spirits next! Lt. Col. N. D. Prasad, Vanita and Aarushi have a special place as being the most warm hearted family I have come across, and I thank them for not only hosting me in Beijing, but also for the splendid conversation and trips we made together.

In Shanghai, the duration of my stay enabled me to form new friends and it was Ni Jingwei of the SASS who took me to his home in Zhenjiang country during the Spring Festival to enable me to witness and participate in the Chinese New Year. It was perhaps the most memorable phase of my field trip. Wang Zhiyi, Liu Hongmei, Zhang Haiping, Mark Jacob, Shen Qian and Li Li deserve all praise for making my stay productive and enjoyable.

The Tamilnadu Government and ICSSR doctoral fellowships have facilitated my research greatly and I would like to thank Mr. Ashok Vardhan Shetty and Mr. Madhukar respectively.
That the Ph.D. is a fascinating experience will only be subscribed to by those who have gone through its rigours. I say this, as during my research, I have had the opportunity to work with Sir Mark Tully, a remarkable person to whom I am immensely grateful, as also to Ms. Gillian Wright. They have constantly supported and encouraged me and borne my flexible time schedules very sportingly.

To Bharati, I have the highest regard and affection, and from time to time, she has been the stabilising factor during the entire course of this work. Her comments, criticisms and diligence have inspired me for the better, and the gratitude I owe her for being near me is immeasurable. Her Ph.D. came in good stead, in ironing out the loose strands in my own work, as also with regard to the bibliography. I consider myself very fortunate to know the special person that she is.

My brother Rajiv, based in London as he is, has been an anchor in very many ways. His doctoral thesis was on the 'Relation of State and Business in the Republic of Korea' and to a large extent his interpretation of events and books have played a significant role in my decision to opt for Chinese studies. He has been a constant source of encouragement, optimism and his repartee of wit has kept me going on. I am immensely proud to have an elder brother like him, and I am sure that despite the geographical distance between us he is with me in all my endeavours.

My parents have a special place for recognising the pursuit of higher studies. For long I have been erratic and I am sure they understand. This work is as much for them as for me. They have provided me a sense of stability and affection that just cannot be put down in words. I revere them for being what they are:

A deep appreciation goes to my local guardians the Raman's who all these years have provided me a home away from home.

This work has been the result of the diligence and patience on the part of Mahender. I would like to make a mention of Chandrasekharan, Ram Kumar Kamat and Shudh Swaroop. To each of them I owe a debt of gratitude.

Lastly, my friends to thank of all them individually, I would nevertheless like to mention them. Without them life would have been difficult indeed. I thank: Adil Mehdi, Anoop Sukumaran, Arunabh Choudhary, Avinash Saklani, Benoy, Gitali, Gopinath, Manreet and Jasbir, Kuriakose, Kalyani, Raghav and Manavi, Shri K.C. Puri, Manik and Vinati, Rajesh and Neelam, P.A. Mathew, Pramod C.R., Ranjit, Ravindranathan and Rashmi, Ritu Agarwal, MVSV Prasad, Rona Wilson, Sanjeev, Shahid Siddiqui, T.G. Suresh, Venkat, Vishal Prasad, and many others.