Acknowledgements

This thesis would not have seen the light of the day but for my Maa and Dr Swaran Singh who have all throughout my doctoral programme extended all kinds of support and cooperation that one can expect. The doctoral programme spanning over a period of four long years has its own problems, especially when one is married and has a lot of other responsibilities. Dr Swaran Singh has been extremely sensitive to this aspect of my life. He has shown tremendous understanding and kindness especially when he got to know that I am going to be a mother. His gentle words and encouragement have always been a constant source of inspiration for me to work hard. But the most important reason for which I shall always remain grateful to him is his faith in me that I will be able to complete my thesis despite the pressures of an expected motherhood. Dr Singh is also a strict disciplinarian. Whenever I have faltered he was always there to guide me firmly and yet gently. The few times he admonished me created a force within me that helped to fight back all odds and move ahead. In this period of struggle, he stood by me like a rock constantly assuring, encouraging and guiding me all throughout. I wish to express my grateful thanks to my Guide who is just not a guide but also a friend, a philosopher and a gem of a person.

I would also like to thank Dr Varun Sahni who has always inspired me to take every challenge that comes that comes my way. In fact, Dr Sahni played an important role in helping me to get to work on a complex issue involving the sustainability of India’s nuclear weapons capability. Besides being my teacher, he is a wonderful person who has always encouraged me to work hard.

My Maa is just not my mother but a friend a pillar of strength who has undertaken all the hardships that came my way after my child was born. In fact, Maa has always stood by my side during all my fears and insecurity and infused in me a kind of strength that has helped to fight all odds. Despite having failing health, Maa took care of a new born baby right from staying awake in the nights to all the other nitty gritty details involved in bringing up an infant. Today, it is because of my mother that I have been able to complete my PhD on time and also have the honour of being a mom.
myself. Although thank you will be very minimal to all that my mother has done yet this is a small way of saying thanks for everything Maa.

I would also like to convey a special thanks to Maj General (Retd.) General Banerjee and Research Professor Mr. P. R. Chari from the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies who have helped me develop my research potential and sharpen my writing skills. In addition, they are wonderful people who have stood by me throughout the period of my doctoral programme. A special thanks to Dr Suba Chandran whose constant “baby sitting” on me has widened my research potential.

A special thanks to all my friends – Namrata, Madan, Dubeyji, who always encourages me to do well in life.

I would also like to thank my father, Mr. Kazi Mohammed Ali for taking care of my child and extending tremendous support to me.

Last, but not the least, a special thanks to my husband for being able to bully him all the time, despite his size and strength. For once, it is proved that size does not really matter. I appreciate all the pains that he took in proof reading this huge volume. And then, I would like my little daughter Zaara to know how much I love her. It was a difficult decision to stay apart but I promise to make it up for you.

28 July 2006

Reshmi Kazi

Reshmi Kazi