ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to several people who have played significant roles in the genesis, maturing, and the eventual compilation of my thesis.

First, and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Chintamani Mahapatra, for being patient, encouraging, and inspirational throughout. His able guidance helped me in taking this research to its logical conclusion. I am grateful to him for going through various drafts of my chapters and coming out with relevant insights and constructive thoughts on the subject. While drawing some ideas from his extensive knowledge and experience on the topic, I must say that I must be responsible for any limitations and shortcomings in the thesis. While I have attempted to undertake as exhaustive a review of the available research on the subject as possible, the opportunity of a field trip could have possibly enabled me to develop a broader perspective of the research.

I am also indebted to K. Santhanam, Director, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) and Commodore Udai Bhaskar for their interest in my research, encouragement and valuable comments. In this regard, I would like to thank P. R. Chari, Director, Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) for his highly useful views and suggestions.

During the course of my research, I’ve been constantly motivated by Professor R.P. Kaushik, Professor Christopher Raj, and Dr. Vijayalakshmi of the CAWES, SIS. Squadron Leader Sudhir Saxena, my senior colleague at the IDSA, and Pramit Pal Choudhury, have been kind to offer significant suggestions from time to time. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of them. I would also like
to specifically mention the cooperation extended by the library staff of the IDSA, JNU and the American Centre Library.

I’ve benefited immensely from the often sharp, but affectionate rejoinders from my brother Roopam, who, incidentally, is also my strongest critic. My in-laws have supported and encouraged me all along. My good friend and colleague, Arpita, has sincerely obliged by being around during the stressful phases of my research.

My grandfather, always keen to see me do well, passed away during the course of this research. I thank him for all his encouragement and support. I also fondly recollect Nicky, our cherished pet, who was a source of enormous joy for me, and is no longer there.

There are many others, without whose active help, I wouldn’t have been able to successfully pursue my research. I thank, and express my heartfelt gratitude, to all of them. The errors and omissions in this work however, are attributable to me only.

(Parama Sinha)