PREFACE

The People's Republic of China occupies a place of special interest for scholars in India. Belonging to the same oriental strain, both India and China are a huge land mass, heavily populated agrarian societies and rooted in tradition and between them there has been considerable interaction over the centuries. They achieved success in their struggles for liberation from foreign domination about the same time and have encountered more or less similar problems in the process of industrialization and development. The structure of society in these countries, the attitudes of their peoples and their entire ethos are the greatest contending factor in their modernization. The revolutionary methods adopted by the leaders of China ensuring mass involvement and aiming solutions at grassroots level have therefore engendered in Indian scholars a keen desire to know more about China. There is a great deal which needs to be investigated and there can be no doubt that both countries would greatly benefit from each others experience.

My investigations and research were most consistently reinforced by my advisor, Prof. G.P. Deshpande, who animated every discussion on this topic - and others - and encouraged the most controversial enquiry for which I am deeply indebted. To my father, who inspired me with his dedication to duty and total commitment to the task at hand, who in fact exemplified the spirit of the true 'karmayogi', and to my mother, whose infinite patience in putting up with a lot more besides my work and whose constant and loving support helped tide over many a rough patch, I dedicate this thesis.

A field-trip grant from the School of International studies, J.N.U., enabled me to go to the United States where I had the opportunity to interact with prominent scholars in the field. I considerably benefited from exchanges with Profs. Frederick Wakeman Jr. of the University of California at Berkeley, Arif Dirlik of Duke University and Albert Feuerwerker of the University of Michigan. Some useful hours were spent with Prof. Tongqi Lin from the Beijing Languages Institute, then doing research on Chinese intellectual history at Harvard.
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A visit to the People’s Republic of China provided me with that immensely satisfying experience - the feel of one’s area of study. Prof. Zhang Minqiu of the South Asian Institute at Peking University went out of her way to help me and most obligingly arranged interviews with Profs. Sha Jiansun, Chen Zhefu and Chen Lai of the Departments of History and Political Science, Peking University. There was considerable opportunity to interact with young scholars and students of Peking University which was an extremely stimulating and interesting experience.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation - inadequate though it is - of the contribution and efforts of my colleagues and friends who boosted the morale at the right moments, Ashmaki, who showed me the funny side and Salam, who never failed to tell me I could do it.

Needless to add, but which must needs be added, whatever shortcomings and errors exist, are my responsibility alone.

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