PREFACE

Humanity has the capacity to make development sustainable in this world so that along with sufficing the needs of the present generation, it also has to ensure that the demands of the future generations can be met without any compromise. This thesis represents years of arduous work on the important issue of environmental politics as they are played amongst all the stakeholders (Countries of the North and South, i.e. Developed and Developing Nations). The topic under research is extremely challenging as environmental threats are poised to change life on earth forever because if its transboundary nature and the significance environment is assuming in today’s world, given situations like global warming and climate change which are taking a toll on millions of lives worldwide irrespective of geographical or political boundaries.

Most of the research have been carried on the basis of primary and secondary sources of data in the libraries of Kolkata. Also significant were resources from respective government and institutional sites as were available on the internet. This dissertation intends to shed light on the different viewpoints and perspectives held by the Southern States on environmental politics. Thus the chief objective of the work was to identify those moments when the solidarity of the South have been shaken by certain contradictions within the group itself and find suitable explanations for them. This thesis is different from the existing literature in the sense that it explained the environmental politics of the South as represented by the three case studies (China, India and Bangladesh) subsuming the divisions within the Southern Bloc itself. So the case studies provided the details of the similarities and the differences in the policy making structures of three key states of the South which represents a particular kind of political economy.

Though much literature exists on the North-South dichotomy in this concerned area there is an absence of sustained case-specific research on the differences amongst and within
the Third World countries on the issue of environmental protection, each with distinctive politico-economic structures. Thus this dissertation is intended to serve as a guidemap as to why the South is divided over the agenda of environment despite their qualitative difference from the North.

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