I would like to keep on record my debt of gratitude to all those who helped me in one way or other in carrying out this work.

First and foremost I acknowledge with greatest gratitude the guidance and support from my guide and teacher, Prof. Dr. Cyriac Thomas, former Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. His inspiring appraisal and fruitful suggestions, at every stage of the research, have always been a great source of strength and encouragement for me.

I am very much indebted to Dr. E.N. Sivadasan, Sel. Grade Lecturer in Political Science, Sree Narayana College, Cherthala, who patiently went through the preliminary draft of the thesis and gave me valuable suggestions.

I owe much to Sri. P. J. Johnson, Sel. Grade Lecturer in English, St. Thomas College, Palai for his invaluable suggestions and support.

I acknowledge with greatest gratitude the unstinting support extended to me by Rev. Dr. Mathew John K., Principal, St. Thomas College, Palai. I also extend my sincere thanks to Prof. Mathew Sebastian, Head, and other staff members of the department of Political Science. I would like to make special mention of Dr. Stany Thomas, Sel. Grade Lecturer of the department for his constructive suggestions and encouragement. My sincere thanks also go to the staff members of the Library of St. Thomas College for all the help extended to me.

I am bound to recollect the supportive and helpful attitude of the Dy. Librarian and other members of the staff of university Library,
and the Librarian of the Dept. library at school of International Relations and Politics of Mahatma Gandhi University. I also acknowledge with great gratitude the co-operation and support of the staff members of Kerala University Library, Palayam, and department and campus Libraries, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram.

I also remember with thanks Smt. Jyothy Roy, my wife, who gave me all the moral support and encouragement.

My sincere thanks also go to M/s Vijaya Book House, near M. G. University for typesetting, Printing and binding of the thesis.

I thank all my colleagues, friends and well-wishers who helped me in one way or other in completing this work.

ROY VARGOSE