PREFACE

This study is part of an inquiry into understanding and explaining the ideological genesis of the intellectual developments in the light of culture, identity and history. Further, it seeks to demonstrate how Tamils under colonial subjugation came to terms with their past and present, and how they envisioned a future for their society. During this period, by constructing a golden past and invoking the primordial loyalties, many social groups vigorously attempted to overcome all debilitations, impediments and hindrances imposed by the traditional system to establish a new social order.

The print and press played a key role in building up an alternate ideological paradigm by creating a community consciousness and a new cultural taste. The intellectual commitment to social transformation through articulation of ideas also has been investigated in this study.

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