PREFACE
The northern frontiers of India, comprising the Himalayan ranges of varying elevations, occupy a unique position in Indian history. The inaccessible, formidable and impassable mountain ranges presented no problem during the times when technical and military skill was not developed and space travel was unimaginable. In the modern times, however, the problem of northern frontiers has acquired new dimensions. In the context of present tensions, when two of India's neighbours are inimically poised against her, a correct appraisal of the problem is most desirable. The validity of the rival claims on territory and the justification or otherwise of the military measures of the recent times necessitate a systematic and authentic study of the growth and development of the northern frontiers. Voluminous literature is coming forth on the current boundary dispute between India and China but scholars have not delved deep into the formation of the northern frontiers. The present work is an attempt to piece together and reconstruct, on the basis of source material of unquestioned authenticity, an account of the development of the frontier regions with a view to determining the justifiability or otherwise, of the claims of India and her neighbours on the territories in the Himalayan regions. The views expressed in this thesis do not conform to any official programme or doctrine.

Historical objectivity is very difficult to achieve. But during the times when rival claims on territories are put forward
with equal vehemence based on seemingly incontrovertible evidence and when national sentiments are worked up, a scholar working on a subject like this faces genuine difficulty in formulating an unbiased and dispassionate attitude and shutting out national affiliation. It has been tried, so far as is humanly possible, not to be swayed by such considerations and it can be modestly claimed that nothing has been extenuated or exaggerated and nothing has been set down in malice.

The source material pertaining to the subject is voluminous and exists in English, Russian, Tibetan and Ladakhi languages. I have consulted and utilised almost all published and unpublished material preserved in the National Archives of India, New Delhi. As for the source material in Russian, Tibetan and Ladakhi languages I have, for the purpose of this thesis, utilised such English translations of the records as are available in India.

The treatment of the subject is chronological. However, in the earlier chapters where the history of different territories had to be traced, the narrative does not proceed strictly along chronological lines. It would not have been possible to weave into one narrative the events happening simultaneously in different territories or kingdoms and involving conflicting interests.

The maps illustrating the fluctuating boundaries of the territories and kingdoms have been drawn on the basis of available descriptions and hence cartographical accuracy cannot be claimed.

The historical background of the frontier regions has been dealt with in the first chapter. The second chapter deals with
British occupation of the territories between Kali and Sutlej, the ascertainment of the boundary and the petty conflicts with Tibet up to 1900. The activities of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and his subordinates, like Gulab Singh and Zorawar Singh, beyond the river Sutlej, have been traced up to the Treaty of 1842 with Tibet, in the third chapter. The fourth chapter deals with the British expansion beyond Sutlej and consequent subjugation of the Sikhs and the creation of the Jammu and Kashmir State. It also includes the determination of the boundaries of the Jammu and Kashmir State with Tibet in the Boundary Commissions of 1846 and 1847. The British involvement in the affairs of the Jammu and Kashmir State up to the signing of the Commercial Treaty of 1870 is the theme of the fifth chapter. In the sixth chapter the entire British activities within and beyond the frontiers from 1870 to 1900 are portrayed. The endeavours of the British Government in formulating a strategically sound boundary of their Indian possessions, involving the cession of the Jammu and Kashmir territory to the Chinese, are dealt with in the seventh chapter.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to all the scholars who have written on the Himalayan area, upon whose writings I have drawn liberally. I am grateful to my teachers Shri E. Young and Shri Amir Ahmad Siddiqi who at school had inspired me for higher learning. I express my most profound feelings of gratitude to Dr. S. Gopal, who has been instrumental for my interest in the area. Shri Ram Rahul, and his emotional attachment to the Himalayas have always been a source of encouragement to me. I am grateful to my
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Needless to say, that the responsibility for ideas, errors and omissions, if any, rests solely on me.

Saugar
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(S.C. Bajpai)