ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The number of persons acknowledged to have helped one in carrying out a written work determines the amount of labor put into it by the author himself. Let me admit that I benefited a great deal from quite a good number of people.

The work was completed almost on schedule despite the fact that I took up some teaching appointments, did some free-lancing for a foreign news agency and was engaged in playwriting during the past five years. That should convince even the most skeptical person that supernatural forces do work in the universe. I am, therefore, thankful foremost to the Almighty.

The research supervisor, who in my case was Prof. Akhtar Majeed, Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, and Centre of West Asian Studies, A.M.U. Aligarh, is like a swimming coach who does not swim along to train one in this art or sport but keeps a constant watch on his trainee to prevent him, in first place, from getting drowned and later takes upon the task of correcting the trainee’s course if he veers around the wrong direction. I happen to draw this analogy when at this moment I recapitulate Prof. Majeed’s spirited, stimulating and scholarly guidance to me over the last five years.

I received immense support from Prof. Moinuzzafar Khan, Head, Department of Political Science, A.M.U. Aligarh, constant encouragement from Prof. Ishtiyaq Ahmed, and was keenly inquired about the progress of this work from Prof. T.A. Nizami. Prof. Subramanyam, Dr. B. Rahmatullah and Dr. Arif Hameed. I am greatly indebted to my teachers at Department of Political Science, A.M. U. Aligarh.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not acknowledge Prof. S.A.H. Bilgrami, former Head of the Department of Political Science, A.M.U. Aligarh, and Prof. M.A. Saleem Khan, former Director of West Asian Studies, AMU Aligarh, as they taught me the basics of International Relations and West Asian Politics respectively thus contributing to the inculcation of an urge in me to do research in West Asian Studies.

Fellow researchers prove to be a good critique as they share with one their knowledge and experiences and in the process some of the thoughts expressed in one’s work get forged in the heat of this collaboration. In this regard my thanks are due to Mohd. Shahid, Dr. Iqbalur Rahaman Shahzad and Dr. Irshad Parvez.

Dr. Ishtiyaque Danish, Lecturer of Islamic Studies at Hamadrad University, New Delhi, and Mohammed Sajjad Hassan, an ALIG brother and a Journalist friend of mine, were more pained than me as far as the language aspect of this work is concerned. I am extremely thankful to them.

My gratitude to S.A. Zaidi who did not only teach me computer processing but also relieved me of the tiresome of job of reprocessing the manuscript. He, therefore, burnt the midnight oil in larger quantities than I did in the final stages of my Ph.D.
I wish to thank the staff of Library, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru University Library, New Delhi, Maulana Azad Library, AMU Aligarh, Library, Center for Strategic Studies, AMU Aligarh. Library, Centre of West Asian Studies AMU Aligarh, Sapru House Library, New Delhi, American Center, New Delhi, Library Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi and the Nehru Museum Library, New Delhi, for extending me great help in the material collection.

Thanks to Tariq Aziz, Shahid Aziz, Shouket, Saulat, Amjad, Reyaz Khan, Shantanu, Alamtar, K.G. Sharma, Naseeruddin Azher, Naseem, Asif, Parvez Niyeri, Behzad Taharpour, Foroudine, Surooniya, Auzin, Saeed, Parsa, Jamshed Beg, Dr. Aslam Siddiqui, Dr. Shah Alam, Sunita and Anjali and many other sympathizers and well-wishers who can be none other than the friends.

I owe to ‘Sir’ (Ashok Purang), Dheerendra, Kiran, Payal, Subhra, Sarabjit, Neeti, Rajesh, Gajra, Kaushik and Kavita of Pierrot’s Troupe, the Urdu-Hindi theater group I worked with as a script writer during my stay at Delhi, for having distracted me from my work, a needed change from the pre-occupation with the research.

On the home front, profound sense of love and gratitude for my grand father, Janab Ghazanfar Hussein Saheb, my parents, Janab Masood Alam Saheb and Ummehani Khatoon Saheba, sister, Arshia, and brothers, Janab Masroor Alam and Fareed who most impatiently wanted that I complete this work at the earliest, yet, or because of this, helped me out when disruptions and delays discouraged me.

ALIGARH

(MOHAMMAD SAYEED ALAM)