The Thesis entitled *Malwa Under The Mughals (1562-1707)*, is an attempt to study the history of the Mughal Subah of Malwa in its manifold aspects covering political, administrative, social, economic and cultural fields. Malwa was an important province of the Mughal Empire and had been annexed very early by Akbar in his career of conquest and provided the sinews of war and expansion in the adjoining and distant regions. Akbar's ambition of the conquest of Gujarat and the Deccan and the suppression of the Portuguese could not have been realised if this central region of India was not firmly secured in the Mughal hands. Both from military and economic points of view Malwa was the first step towards the Mughal goal of unification of most of India under one banner and one administrative structure. Therefore Malwa was conquered and annexed by Akbar in 1562. It became the vantage point for further exploits and it provided the economic resources to further expand wedwards and southwards.

Malwa was also significant because a flourishing kingdom existed these before the Mughal conquest. It was famous for its prosperity, cultural achievements and refinement and the Mughal Emperor could have hardly spared it in his onward rush to secure resources, lands and centres of cultural efflorescence.

Mughal Subah of Malwa is too big a topic to be covered by one thesis or to be taken up in one study. In fact, both micro and macro studies are needed to fill in the gap in our wide range of researches of the region as a whole and its dis-
tinctive character as a part of the overall study of Mughal India. I wish future researchers would undertake work on constituent units of the vast region of Malwa in order to cover various aspects of the micro studies. My purpose is to unfold the hidden aspects in the studies of Malwa in one systematic work and to leave future researchers to study different aspects minutely and extensively. No systematic work has as yet been undertaken on the Subah of Malwa as a single unit; hence the importance of this study as part of the overall study of Mughal India.

The thesis is divided into six chapters dealing with multifacet aspects of the history of Malwa in administrative, social, economic, religious, cultural fields and related thematic ramifications.

Chapter I deals with pre-subah background beginning with geographical, topographical and strategic importance of the Subah in necessary details and highlights as to how it become a centre of attraction to the warring states intent on coveting Malwa. On 10 March, 1561 Akbar sent Mughal army towards Malwa. The command of the army was given to Adham Khan which included such generals as Pir Muhammad Khan, Abdullah Khan, Qiya Khan Khang, Shah Muhammad Khan Qandhari, Adil Khan and his son, Sadiq Khan, Habib Quli Khan, Haider Ali Khan and others. The army reached Sarangpur and Baz Bahadur the ruler of Malwa who resided there moved out three kos from the city, pitched his camp and
arranged his army. But he could not withstand the bravery of Adham Khan and was defeated. Baz Bahadur fled towards Khandesh. Once again Baz Bahadur reoccupied Malwa from Pir Muhammad Khan, the hakim of Malwa but finally Abdullah Khan Uzbeg was given the task of recapturing Malwa. It was finally annexed to the Mughal Empire as a Mughal Subah in 1562.

The discussion on the Mughal administrative structure is split into two Chapters II and III. One deals with the position, powers and role of the Subahdar and the distinctive character of the governor's peculiar function in the distant region of Malwa in matters of war and peace in the midst of turbulent circumstances, insurgence and situation of aggression and attacks. In the Mughal system of administration the Subahdar occupied a very significant and unique position. He was the civil and military head of administration in the province and carried on imperial policies and measures. He was the prototype of the Emperor's powers and functions and was responsible for war and peace, tranquillity and prosperity, agricultural and industrial growth in the Subah and was in direct communication and command from the Central authority.

The Subahdar was supported by a network of officers in the province. The provincial diwan, bakhshi, sadr, qazi and in the sarkars and parganahs the officers known as the faujdar, Kotwal, qazi, amin, patwari, bitikchi etc. ensured the maintenance law and order, justice and tranquillity, revenue realization
and the strength of the enforcement of imperial edicts and authority. These form the discussion of a separate Chapter III which gives details in this important sphere of the study.

Chapter IV is entitled Economic structure. The discussion spreads out to various categories of economic activities like the state of agriculture, nature and output of foodgrains and other kinds of produce, the growth of trade and towns, forest products, textile manufactures, the production of exquisite fabrics, pottery and glaze-work, minerals, mints and standards of general economic prosperity—all dealt within necessary details.

The Chapter dealing with society and culture depicts the multifarious human activity and various aspects of growth in the economic, cultural, political and administrative fields which combined to set a pattern to social development, life-style and the value and importance attached to social norms and cultural enrichment, the prosperity of the people and the variegated social structure is glimpsed from the social pattern that has been emerged from contemporary literature and artefacts from Malwa. In Malwa as elsewhere in India the disparities in rank and position and strata of society presents a picture of a wide gap between the rich and the poor and the presence of a negligible middle-class in society. The caste-system was rigid and complex and was a great deterrent to social mobility and cohesion. The discussion covers all the various aspects of social life,
social customs, ceremonies, usages, fairs, festivals, education, literary output, medical sciences, growth of Sanskrit and Persian literature and sundry other by-products of social pattern and way of life.

The last Chapter analyses Sufi orders and their social impact. The Sufi movements had enriched the socio-religious life of the people of Malwa. It was a phenomenon which was introduced to India with the Muslim contact. Before the Muslim arms could reach various parts of India, Muslim commerce and religion had produced significant appearance and impact in the various parts of India. The Sufi orders which played a vital role to mould the life of the people of Malwa were the Chishti, Shattari and the Qadiri. Very soon Malwa was studded with Sufi shrines and Khanqahs where instructions in spiritual and moral teachings were imparted. Sufism infused new life and vigour in society and made a deep impact upon the life of non-Muslims as well. The Chishti and the Shattari silsilahs found sound base in Malwa and a large number of Sufis belonging to these orders made Malwa their centre of activities.

The foregoing description of the chapters of the thesis covering sundry aspects of the scope of the work would abundantly demonstrate the extensive coverage of the perspectives and aspects pertaining to the history of the Mughal Subah of Malwa. It is of vital importance because of the commercial, agrarian,
strategic, administrative, socio-cultural, socio-religious, educational and other significant themes of discussion which are given in this thesis in necessary details. The work is thus intended to be a study to arouse the interest of co-workers to take up researches in the different themes connected with Mughal Malwa.