The study of political, social, and administrative institutions of the Mughals has been increasingly attracting the attention of scholars for some time. Pioneer work by eminent historians has already been done. Nevertheless, it is felt that to put the social, economic and administrative history on a scientific basis much has still to be done and fresh material, especially the documentary evidence should be properly studied. The work has been taken up by the Department of History, Muslim University, Aligarh and the institution of the nobility, the mansabdari system, the land revenue administration, and the religious movements are being studied on the basis of available material in India and in the libraries abroad. The present work forms a part of these studies and aims at a study of the land revenue administration in the first-half of the 18th century. The study has been confined to these years because some scholars had been already working on the land revenue system under the Great Mughals. The reason for closing the study by the middle of the 18th century has been a recognition of the fact that by that time the Mughal Empire as such had ceased to be a political and administrative reality. The present studies have been mainly based on documentary evidence, which has been supplemented by evidence contained in the chronicles.

I wish to take this opportunity to confess that the nature of the work required not only enormous reading but also a mature and clear understanding and a mastery over the technical details of the land revenue administration. The present writer has no such pretensions.
On the other hand the present writer, in the course of his studies, has been often overwhelmed with the intricate and difficult nature of the problems to be investigated and was acutely conscious of his mental and academic limitations. If I pursued the studies, in spite of these limitations, it was because of a belief in the Kant's maxim: it is necessary and, therefore, it should be done; and if the work was completed it was on account of the constant help and encouragement given to me by my teacher and supervisor Prof. S.A. Hashid and my esteemed colleague Dr. Irfan Mohd. Habib.

In the preparation of this thesis my indebtedness and gratitude to my teacher and supervisor Prof. S.A. Hashid is too deep for words. His liberal outlook of life as well as of history has inspired me to study the historical evidence with a detached view, as far as it is humanly possible. His able guidance and unfailing interest in my work has given me the spirit to work with courage and hope, and his constant help available at every stage has greatly facilitated the completion of my work. My grateful thanks are also due to my colleague Dr. Irfan Mohd. Habib, who drew my attention to a number of important sources such as Risala-i-Zirat, Glossary of Revenue Terms by Khwaja Yasin of Delhi and Durrul Ulum. He was also kind enough to give valuable suggestions about some of the difficult problems connected with the land revenue administration under the Mughals.

Aligarh 31st October, 1959. 

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