Preface

I try to present in this thesis in as closely criti-
cized a form as I could achieve, the rich statistical material
available for the beginning of the 17th century. I have sought
to construct estimates for different sectors of the economy on
the basis of the figures provided directly by our evidence com-
bined with a certain amount of deduction and extrapolation.
The result is admittedly uneven as to the degree of reliability.
Nevertheless, where independent checks have been possible, partic-
cular estimates have been either confirmed, or, at any rate,
found to be within the possible ranges in a surprising large
number of cases. It has thus been found possible to give quanti-
tative exposition of agricultural production, distribution of
the surplus among various classes, price and wage structure and
the population of India about 1600.

On the other hand, it has been found best not artifi-
cially to overstep the limits imposed on us by our material. For
such important elements of the economy, therefore, as the value
of production of extractive industries (e.g., salt, iron, etc.),
the total value of services, and the volume of internal and
external trade, no quantification has been attempted, because
there is practically no basis direct or indirect in our sources.
This has meant, among other things, that no estimate for GNP for
Mughal India could be thought of.
From the data collected for c.1600, it is possible, with the limitations just mentioned, to have a fairly broad picture of the structure of Indian economy at the time. Unluckily, the size and quality of statistical information available for subsequent points of time during the 17th century is rather poor; and the economy cannot be examined in its process of movement as adequately as one would wish. However, wherever it is possible, the subsequent information has been used to trace tendencies to change in quantitative terms. Attention is particularly invited to Chapter XV.

I should like to record the many debts incurred by me in the course of working on my thesis.

My gratitude to my Supervisor is beyond the reach of expression and I should not, therefore, try to put it into words.

I owe much to Professor S. Nurul Haqan, who, by granting me appointment as Statistician (Research Assistant) in the Department of History over ten years ago, was responsible for changing my research interests from Mathematics to Economic history.

Mr Faiz Habib has drawn most of my maps, with professional competence under the direction of Mr Zahoor A. Khan, Cartographer of the Department; and I am thankful to both of them for bearing with patience my constant alterations and revisions.
I am indebted to Mr. S.A.I. Tirmizi, Director, National Archives, for his gracious help and guidance at the National Archives, New Delhi. Dr. A.K. Srivastav, Numismatic Officer, State Museum, Lucknow (presently Director, Mathura Museum) gave me very valuable help for obtaining access to the treasure-trove reports. He also very kindly let me consult his unpublished book.

Among my senior colleagues, Dr. S.P. Gupta ungrudgingly placed at my disposal his knowledge of the Rajasthan material; he also so ungrudgingly let me consult the transcripts and microfilms he has of the various series of account papers and documents from the Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner. Professor A. Ather Ali and Mr. Iqtidar Alam Khan were always ready to discuss with me (and to often clarify) the various complexities of Mughal administration and political history, that I had to grapple with for understanding the precise significance of my texts on a number of occasions. I am also grateful to Mr. A.J. Waizar for his constant warnings against the possible misuses of statistics.

Members of the staff of the Research Library, Department of History, and of the Maulana Azad Library gave me cheerful assistance throughout, and I am deeply appreciative of the consideration that I have received from them.

The painstaking accuracy with which Mr. A.A. Zaidi has typed the thesis has placed me under considerable obligation to him. Any textual errors that remain are not likely to be his.