

## Preface

The doctoral thesis entitled "Political and Administrative history of Travancore. 1700 – 1850" aims at making a comprehensive analysis of an important period in the history of Travancore, a premier princely state of South India. Politics and administration are the two sides of the same coin. Any study without giving due importance to both the aspects would be definitely incomplete. The political instability is the replica of administrative inefficiency. An efficient and sound system of administration is possible only under political unity.

On the eve of the eighteenth century the erstwhile princely state of Travancore was almost like a political kaleidoscope which was greatly disturbed by internal and external dissensions. Anarchy, lawlessness and disorder became the order of the day. The internal feuds coupled with machinations of the European powers rather confounded the situation. The chaos and confusion came to an end through the establishment of a sound system of administration which ultimately opened an era of progress.

Though a series of studies have been attempted on the different facets of Travancore so far no attempt has been made to analyse the political and administrative history of Travancore at its correct perspective. The present study based on all the available primary and secondary sources attempts to unravel the political intrigues and intricacies which undermined the vitals of Travancore. On the other side it also

unveils the different administrative agencies and organs which tried to ensure stability and progress. Since the study attempts to examine the political and administrative changes at its historical canvas, at times repetition of certain events becomes inevitable. Similarly in order to avoid doubts and to ensure clarity of ideas the meaning of the non-English terms have been mostly furnished in the text of the thesis itself and hence a separate glossary has not been given.

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### TRAVANCORE Under the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

