PREFACE
Both by the immense popularity which his novels have brought and by the considerable critical attention they have received, Graham Greene has come to be regarded as a major living literary force. Most of the critical responses are directed either towards those elements in his fiction that have made him popular or towards the artistic excellence or otherwise of his individual works. But no attempt seems to have been made to discuss those aspects of his fiction which help us to relate him to the tradition of English fiction to which he belongs and at the same time show the modernity of his response to the existential problems of the present age. Unlike his immediate predecessors and some contemporaries who drew their inspiration largely from the Modern Movement, Greene, from the beginning of his literary career, has been very clear about his commitments. Without being an isolationist or an experimentalist in the sense in which Lawrence and Joyce were in their responses to the modern reality, Greene has shown his strong awareness of the existential dilemmas to which the modern man is exposed and has revealed in his works his growing maturity to deal with the changing climates of existence.

The present study aims at highlighting those aspects of Greene's novels that help us to place him in the tradition of English fiction which is sustained by literary realism and at the same time show how refreshingly modern his responses have been to the contemporary human condition.
Of the twenty two novels which Greene has so far written, two early novels, namely, *The Man of Action* and *Rumour at Nightfall*, are not discussed as they are not readily available because Greene has withdrawn them from circulation; and the latest novel, *The Human Factor*, could not be included in the present study because by the time it was published, the thesis had been completed for submission. The remaining nineteen novels are dealt with not in a chronological sequence but under a different grouping which is aimed at illustrating both the generic and the thematic significance of the individual works.

My indebtedness to the critics of Greene is amply acknowledged in the Bibliography. Special mention must be made of the abiding interest shown by Dr A.Namakrishna Rao, my Research Supervisor, in enabling me to complete my study under his valuable guidance. I am particularly indebted to Prof. V.S. Sethuraman, who helped me to gain access to various sources of inquiry. I should like to thank the Librarians of the British Council Library, Madras, and of the Autonomous Post-Graduate Centre Library, Anantapur, for their prompt help in making available the books I needed for the completion of this study.

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