This dissertation contains the results of a research work carried on by me since some years. In fact, I have been contemplating on carrying on a serious study on some aspect of Ancient Indian Polity ever since I have been studying for my M.A. in Political Science in Agra College, Agra University, way back in the years 1960-62. But my ideas could not be translated into action till I came into contact with Dr. Priyangshu Prabal Upadhya, Senior Reader, Department of Sanskrit, Gauhati University (retired recently), who was kind enough to give me his valuable guidance for carrying on my research work. I remain extremely grateful to Dr. Upadhya for the sympathy, patience and determination with which he has been supervising the execution of the project despite of my inherent deficiency in respect of the knowledge of Sanskrit.

The present work is divided into eleven chapters with contents as indicated below:

CHAPTER I: A general introduction in respect of the Manusmriti and the Mahabharata, their bearing upon polity, general points of their similarity and dissimilarity, and the utility of a comparative study.

CHAPTER II: The origin of the science of polity according to the Manusmriti and the Mahabharata.

CHAPTER III: The concept of the state and sovereignty, origin of the king, origin of the king's coercive authority.

CHAPTER IV: The duties and obligations of the king.

CHAPTER V: The associates of the king, such as mastrī, āsāyā and ṭhāvīra — their duties and qualifications, etc.
CHAPTER VI : The fort.

CHAPTER VII : The economic and fiscal policies of a king, taxation and other sources of revenue.

CHAPTER VIII : Law and order of the state and administration of justice.

CHAPTER IX : The foreign policy, the magadha theory and the concept of Pāñcava.

CHAPTER X : The art of war, war ethics, post-war duties, and measures in respect of a besiege.

CHAPTER XI : Conclusions

While concluding this preface I have the pleasure to put on record a deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Dr. Mukunda Madhava Sharma, M.A., Ph.D., D.Litt., Kāvyasthīthā, for helping me with a number of valuable suggestions despite of his heavy preoccupation as the Indian Council for Cultural Relations’s Visiting Professor at Udayana University, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.

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