SYNOPSIS

The period from 7th to 14th century A.D., as far as the Western littoral in our country is concerned, can be considered not only as a period of birth and death of many dynasties, both from North and South of the area, but also as a peak period of cultural flux enabling the political entity called Gujarat to go through a metamorphosis and finally find its place in the history of India, as a clear-cut socio-political entity. The historians have looked at this period from different angles in terms of the rise and fall of individual dynasties like the Chalukyas of Badami, Rashtrakutas, Chalukyas of Kalyana, Yadavas, Kalachuris, Maitrakas, Chaulukyas of Gujarat, Paramaras, and others, or even in terms of Northern India and Southern India. Dr. Yazdani and his team of eminent historians have dealt elaborately with the History of Deccan as a whole. Dr. Altekar, Dr. Krishnakumari Virji, Dr. O.P. Verma, Dr. A.K. Majumdar, Dr. D.C. Ganguly, Dr. Pritipal Bhatia, Dr. Derrett and Dr. William Goelho have discussed various dynasties. Several research scholars, have carried on their research about separate rulers of this period. However, so far no work appears to have attempted, to look at the Western littoral as an entity, wherein as a result of continuous political and cultural contacts from Northern and Southern
parts of India and the local reactions to them, a stable socio-political and cultural life evolved maintaining its character on one side and forging a link between the much noted North and South on the other.

It was during this period that many royal dignitaries flourished both in the Northern and Southern parts of this area. They carved out empires for themselves and came into contact with one another by both alliances as well as wars. They have at the same time created monuments of enduring importance in the field of architecture, sculpture, painting and literature. Through sustenance and enrichment of social institutions, religious beliefs, political and cultural aspect of life that could be seen from contemporary literature, historical records, monuments, both secular and religious, inscriptions, copper plate grants, etc. the dynamism and ability to adopt the new cultural values by this area could be gleaned. This enabled this area, to withstand the onslaught of waves of Muslim invasions towards the end of the period under study, without the basic fabric of culture and socio-political identity of this area being destroyed.

The two main religions, Jainism and Hinduism which dominated the life of the people, in these two regions, propagated their teaching to the masses, through writings
in Apabhramsa and Prakrit and later on gave an impetus to the growth of the regional languages. The sub-sects like Mahanubhavas, Vira Saivas through their bhakti-cults, could rally the masses around this new religious awakening. Having to trade through the ports along the Western coast, both the hinter-lands of North and South maintained trade and other social contacts which led to cultural dissemination from both sides. The local vocabulary drew heavily from the languages from both regions. Food commodities and dress materials were exchanged in the trading centres. People migrated to the distant centres of learning in the two areas. The architecture in both the regions, drew inspiration and ideas from either side, to perfect two distinct styles, particularly in temple architecture. An interesting blending of culture, appears to have taken place, in the Western littoral in the period from 7th to 14th century.

This work, therefore, was undertaken to examine the nature of the contacts between Karnataka and Gujarat through the period 7th to 14th century A.D., as seen through the political history of the period, and through social habits like food habits, dress and ornaments used, pleasures and pastimes of the people, feasts and festivals and also from language and literature, art and architecture, weights, measures and currency of the period. : : An effort is also
made to study the effects of these contacts. The result of this work is divided into the following eleven chapters.

INTRODUCTION :-

In the introduction the problem studied in the thesis, method of work, literature consulted etc., are described.

CHAPTER I : Geography :-

Geographical aspects of the two regions under study, namely, Karnataka and Gujarat are dealt with, describing the names of different regions during the period under study. The rivers, mountains, climate and vegetations, cities with the trade links, both internal and foreign in these regions as could be understood through the local literature, as well as the reports of Arab travellers have been narrated.

CHAPTER II : Political History :-

The origin, rise and fall of the various dynasties, that ruled different regions in Karnataka and Gujarat from the beginning of the 7th century A.D. to the beginning of 14th century A.D. have been described. The political relationship, which the contemporary rulers of the various regions maintained through wars and alliances, has been dealt with, to indicate the extent of the direct and indirect contacts that existed between these regions. The early beginnings and the metamorphosis of Gujarat as a clear
cut political entity through this period is traced in this chapter.

CHAPTER III : General Social Habits :-

Social conditions of the people caste system, marriage, position of woman, prostitution, customs and manners, popular beliefs and superstitious, crime and punishment and education have been dealt with in this chapter.

CHAPTER IV : The Food and Drinks :-

The food habits of the two regions are briefly dealt with, along with descriptions of various items of food preparations, described in the literature of the period. Wherever possible, they have been identified with the modern preparations. The drinking habits of the period as could be collected from various literary works also are presented.

CHAPTER V : Dress and Ornaments :-

From the literature, sculpture and paintings of the period as the main sources, the dress habits and ornaments worn in the two regions, by males and females, have been examined and described. Different types of materials and the places of their origin are also discussed.

CHAPTER VI : Pleasures and Pastimes :-

Indoor and outdoor games, sports as well as games mainly intended for ladies have been classified and compared
with those mentioned in early literature. They are compared
with the modern sports wherever possible.

CHAPTER VII : Fasts, Feasts and Festivals :-

Festivals formed an important part of the social life
in both regions, not only as social mechanism for fellowship
and get-together, but also as giving expression to religious
beliefs and thoughts. Even though feasts and festivals played
an important part of Hindu life, festivals seem to be rela-
tively less important among Jains as austerity is given
much expression.

Some aspects of these, are regional in nature with
different ways of observing them, while some others are
common to both regions. These aspects are dealt with in
detail. Feasts and festivals starting from the month of
Chaitra are described month by month.

CHAPTER VIII : Weights, Measures and Currency :-

As part of study on trade and commercial contacts, a
description of the weights, measures and currency prevalent
in these regions is given. The information was collected
from the contemporary literature of the period, both from
Karnataka and Gujarat and from the references in epigraphical
records. The similarities in the use of weights, measures
and currency have been discussed.
CHAPTER IX: Language and Literature:

The outlines of literature of the period from both the regions are all presented in chronological order. Since the main theme and motive for the literary works of the period centred around religion, some of the religious trends of the period are also given. A chart showing the extent of penetration and influence of the words from Karnataka to Gujarat as seen from the literature is attached. Similarly the Karnataka language drew heavily from Sanskrit, which is the origin for all North Indian languages, including Gujarati and hence this influence which is difficult to be ascribed to a single region is not discussed.

CHAPTER X: Art and Architecture:

The temple architecture of both regions belonging to different periods is discussed in detail. The details relating to the plinth, Mandovara, Vimana and the Pillars are discussed with reference to unity and diversity in the architectural approaches in the two regions.

CHAPTER XI: Conclusions:

The various aspects of the contacts between Karnataka and Gujarat indicated in the different chapters are summed up, to indicate the impact of these contacts in shaping the social life in both these areas over the period under study. The growth of Gujarat as a socio-political entity
out of these contacts is traced. The basis of the unity amidst the diversities in the three modern regions in the Western littoral namely, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat is highlighted.

STATEMENT I

Sources of Information:

The bulk of the material, in this work was drawn mainly from the reported inscriptions, religious and secular literature of Jaina and Hindu writers of the period and the reports of the Arab travellers. The works of earlier writers like, H. Cousens, G. Buhler and J. Burgess and also of modern writers, such as Krishnakumari Virji, A.K. Majumdar, G. Yazdani, O.P. Verma and Pritipal Bhatia were also taken into consideration. Some of the theses like that of A.S. Raikar on 'Yadavas and their times' and A.V. Naik on 'The Archaeology of Deccan' were also studied and information relevant to this topic were gathered.

STATEMENT II

The main contribution through this study:

The rise and the evolution of the present state of Gujarat, through this period under study, as a new entity and its relation with its southern counterparts are brought out. The political penetration and occupation of the kings of Karnataka, in the entire southern Gujarat and parts of
central Gujarat over a long period, and their impact on the
growth of Gujarat are dealt with. The cultural unity of the
Western littoral as a whole, and the interdependence of
Karnataka and Gujarat on certain cultural aspects, are
analysed. In a way, in this thesis the development of the
clean-cut viable entities of the modern period on the
Western littoral, namely Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat,
through a long period of cultural and political contacts
is brought out and an effort made to understand it. This
study contributes to a large extent, to understand the
evolution of these three socio-political entities and their
interrelationships. But the emphasis is given on the two
regions that are studied in detail. In short this thesis
provides the information, on the social, political and
cultural background, in the Western India during the most
important period of its evolution into three political
regions, where the three units even though politically
separated, remained united with strong under-current of
common cultural affinities, remaining like the three seeds
in the same string-bean pod. The thesis throws light on the
dynamic inter-relationship between the three regions,
Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, but it deals extensively
with Karnataka and Gujarat that are closely studied.