PREFACE

American interest and awareness of India originated quite early, but it was during the Second World War that the United States realized about the strategic position of India and it began to look towards this country with genuine interest. Consequently serious historical scholarship developed towards the history of India among American historians. Much work has since been done on Indian in the form of published research monographs, articles in journals and unpublished Ph.D. dissertations. Several American Universities have Indian studies programs devoted to the history, culture and languages of India. The work done by American historians, especially at Berkeley, Chicago, Wisconsin, Durham, Columbia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, is noteworthy.

To the best of my knowledge no historian has so far undertaken a comprehensive study to estimate the overall American contribution to the writing of Indian History. This dissertation is thus a humble attempt to fill in a vital gap in the historiography of India. The subject entails an analytical, critical and evaluative study of the understanding, interpretation and presentation of India by American historians. It is not merely a bibliographic work but an endeavour to trace the main historiographical trends of American writings on India, especially the recent tenor.
and the shift towards Area Studies. Only the important works of leading historians and social scientists, who have given new direction and fresh insights into the study of Indian history have been analysed.

Many persons contributed to the successful completion of this venture. First, I dedicate this dissertation to my late father for inculcating the reading habit and a fondness for books. Even though he is not in our midst, he continues to inspire me by the fine example he set.

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Chandigarh.

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