At what point of time did I suddenly become aware of the responsibility of my generation (towards the next) which had sleep walked through the greater part of this century, barely aware of the over-riding issues of our times raised by the bomb, I cannot recall. It is just as well that I did wake up and thought of educating myself again, to begin with, after a gap of two decades.

How alive was the intelligentsia was evident from the plethora of material available on related issues which almost deluged and delighted me at the same time.

So much had already been written on disarmament, the bomb and its aftermath, the security and insecurity of nations, the concepts of deterrence, balance of power, neutrality, nonalignment and so many other related issues that I virtually found myself in a finely tangled web from which I tried to extricate myself step by step by undertaking the study titled DISARMAMENT - AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE. In it I have attempted to highlight the sea change that the single invention of the bomb has wrought in our society. Suddenly, the parameters of the problems the world had hitherto faced changed to such an extent that to the ordinary intellect they became almost unintelligible and beyond grasp. In the turbulence generated, a host of concepts like those of sovereignty, nation-state, national interest, security, peace, justice and prosperity lost their earlier connotations and yet remained deeply embedded in their earlier old forms in
human/national consciousness still guiding still goading action which was inadequate and often irrelevant in the present context. To my mind disarmament became one of the most important though only one of many interconnected issues which needed to be pursued for creating conditions which would favour peaceful resolution of conflicts.

In the context of disarmament, Indian perspective seemed very relevantly to lead towards universalism. The Indian approach, I felt, seemingly paradoxical, had the basic values intact and perceived the problem in global parameters. The Indian approach rightly understood could be stated as the human approach and could be used as a base, to build upon a new world order, just and peaceful.

The task undertaken has indeed been ambitious and full of serious pitfalls and traps into which I often fell during the course of my study of the subject and from which I was gently pulled out by benign guidance from several quarters.

The study has been divided into seven Chapters—beginning with the 'ADVENT OF THE ATOMIC AGE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS' which as the title suggests deals with the onset of the atomic age and forces set in motion thereby. Second Chapter 'ARMS AND INSECURITY OF NATIONS' follows as a logical extension of the first, highlighting how armaments instead of removing insecurity have only enhanced it. 'DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS: A REVIEW, views the efforts of the international community on various levels to promote peace through arms control and
disarmament. However imperfect, in the chronological record of these negotiations, a change is perceptible in the thinking process of leaders at national and international levels. 'CONSTRAINTS' the fourth Chapter dwells upon the impediments and obstacles in the path of disarmament negotiations. In the fifth Chapter, DISARMAMENT—AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE, Indian perception is discussed and some myths clarified. As a logical extension follows the Chapter 'A JUST WORLD ORDER' based on values propounded by all faiths and which are an integral part of our culture and heritage. 'PROSPECTS' the last Chapter concludes on a positive note with the recent developments on the international scene falling in line with the optimistic approach undertaken in the study.

A study of this kind, rooted deeply in the past, covering nearly five decades (after the bomb) of this century, spanning the earth, the skies and the seas, dealing with complex issues of arms, security, power and peace is bound to have limitations and flaws for which the author takes full responsibility and offers this study as an introduction to the basic vital issues of our times. It is hoped that it would dispel certain doubts and misconceptions about the Indian standpoint often criticized for maintaining double standards. It is also hoped that the study would forewarn and prepare serious students to undertake further research into the future which is almost here with the interspersed lights and shadows of coming events looming large on the horizon.
I acknowledge with deep gratitude and appreciation, the patience and understanding of my guide, Dr. Pam Rajput, without whose guidance this study could not have been undertaken. I am most grateful to my father for his invaluable help and encouragement without which it would not have been possible for me to finish this study. My thanks are due also to Dr. T. T. Poulose, Professor of Disarmament, JNU, New Delhi, for his valuable guidance. Miss Naresh Desai of the Indian Council of World Affairs and Mrs. Uma Chopra of the Indian Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis helped me immensely in the collection of relevant material. I feel greatly obliged to them.

My thanks are due to Mr. O. P. Sharma, Mr. B. S. Kalhon and Mr. Madan Mohan who took infinite pains and spent long hours in typing the thesis. Finishing touch was given by Ritu Sehgal who edited the final draft as a labour of love. My heartfelt thanks go to her.

Last but not the least my thanks are due to my husband Major General S. K. Datt V.S.M. for keeping my sagging morale up.

Sunita Dev.