This is a study of the life and achievements of a brave European military adventurer, George Thomas, who succeeded in establishing an independent kingdom in the region of Haryana in Punjab in the last decade of the 18th century. George Thomas came to India in 1780 and established his rule in Haryana in 1798 till his defeat and death in 1802. He was one adventurer who created an independent kingdom and made Hansi his capital.

No doubt, a number of brave and famous adventurers like Gen. Samru, Gen. Boigne, Gen. Perron and Gen. Raymond were in the armies of the Indian rulers, but the idea of making an independent state did not occur to them. Thomas was a brave, active, warrior and honest ruler who previously served under various rulers of India and had fought a number of battles. He was an ordinary sailor in British Navy who later on rose to the rank of General after serving the armies of many rulers in India. Later on, he established his own independent kingdom in Haryana. He was illiterate but he could speak Persian language. He also set up a good administration in his state.

His 'Memoirs' in the form of a book were written by his contemporary officer, William Francklin. But the 'Memoirs' are full of gaps. There are some books upon the life and times of Thomas like Military Memoirs of Mr. George Thomas, The Rajah
from Tipperary, A Particular Account of the European Military Adventurers of Hindustan - 1784-1803 and Swords for Hire etc.

But these books suffer from a number of weaknesses. There are brief and sketchy; many aspects of the life and activities of George Thomas are completely ignored. Then, these books are not based on all the available source-material in different libraries and archives. My attempt is to write a full, comprehensive biography of one of the most fascinating personalities of 18th century India. I have consulted various sources such as: Imperial Record Department records like Foreign and Political, Foreign and Secret; Maratha sources like Poona Residency Correspondence Volumes; Asiatic Annual Registers; Contemporary Journals and Magazines; Gazetteers and some travellers' books etc.

I have taken the photographs from the following sources; Shelford Bidwell, Swords for Hire; Ishar Singh Nara, Raja Yogi; Dennis Holman, Sikander Sahib; Maj. B.D. Basu, Rise of the Christian Power in India; D.F. Karaka, Fabulous Mogul, (London, 1955); C. Grey, European Adventurers of Northern India, 1785 to 1849; H.G. Keene, Hindustan Under Free Lances, 1770-1820; Pt. Baldevprasad Mishar, Rajasthan Itihas, Part II (Hindi), Tr., (Bombay, 1925); Illustrated Qaumi Ekta, Punjabi, Feb. 1975 and Punjab State Museum, Fort Mubarak, Patiala.

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I have consulted various libraries and Archives for my subject: Punjab State Archives, Patiala; Panjabi University Library, Patiala; National Library, Calcutta; National Archives of India, New Delhi; British Council Library, New Delhi; Nehru Memorial Library, New Delhi; National Archaeological Library, New Delhi; Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi; Punjab Secretariat Library, Chandigarh; Haryana Secretariat Library, Chandigarh; Dewarka Das Library, Chandigarh; Panjab University Library, Chandigarh.

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