One of the very important marks of the dawning civilization is the invention of certain ways and means of expression and communication. Accounting is one of those dignified means. It deals with the expression of economic interactions among people and entities. Since the early history, men have been connected in some way or other to the economy, the historical background of accounting thus could be found deep rooted in the history of civilization. It has been spotted on the momentum of evolution and it can be seen that accounting evolved distinctly in response to world needs. As a result of growing dynamism in the society, business and commerce in particular, accounting has developed in depth and proliferated in coverage. Dynamism, as a new cult and credo, has swept the discipline off from traditionalism to modernism, from particularism to universalism.

Accounting, even in this dynamic scientific era, is closely linked in most people's minds with certain calculations, to the best, with balance sheet and profit and loss account. This is one part, may be a very insignificant part of accounting function. The thread of continuity, inspite of changes in its service to human efforts in the progress of civilization for centuries, is the most important part of accounting history. It furnishes a continuing demonstration of the relation of ideas to changing circumstances and the relation of known actions to motivating needs. A continuous adaptation to the changing needs provides accounting with a body of propositions based on observable phenomena that are systematically related and interdependent. It accordingly, contributes to an integrated
view of the ideological foundation of accounting in the world of affairs.

Accounting, in the present, by shedding its bookkeeping image i.e., stewardship, verification, etc., has been marked by much widened perspective of its mission of being an information system geared to the utility of its users. The definition of accounting has accordingly been widened. From its being understood to mean primarily a technique-oriented process, the word 'accounting' has now come to denote 'the measurement and communication of economic data'. Thus the subject matter of accounting encompasses a body of knowledge culminating over a very long period through evolutionary processes. A study of the background of these processes, pertaining to the discipline of accounting, which fosters its transformation from a means of mere expression into a formal information system, is quite essential. Although, the available material on accounting represents a rather large store of information, there has not been, so far, as I feel, adequate evaluation of the evolutionary aspects of the subject, at least in this region of the world. This dissertation thus proposes to present, in a chronological succession, as much as possible, those related events, forces, and/or ideas that have contributed to and/or have developed into an organised discipline that has commonly been referred to as "accounting". In view of the fact that accounting evolution, according to its inherent nature, is dynamic rather than static, none of the assertions should be considered as conclusions.

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During the course of checking, certain typographical errors have been found. I have tried to remove them as far as possible. It is possible that some more errors might have slipped my sight. Of course, for any errors, that still remain, I alone, am responsible.

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