This particular thesis has been in the offing for past several years. Earlier I had completed a study on U.S. policy towards South Africa in the seventies. Subsequently the policy of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. in the Indian Ocean began to stimulate my intellectual curiosities. The present study is an outcome of the same. In order to understand the Indian Ocean region in a broader perspective three case studies were selected in three diverse regions of Afro-Asia which form the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean.

Handling regular college teaching and trying to meet the demands of academic excellence has perhaps given me a greater opportunity to think and analyse the problems related to this area. Interactions with several scholars at different phases of writing have broadened my perspective of the Indian Ocean. It has also helped me to acquire clarity in thought and writing.

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Finally I would like to state that I am alone responsible for whatever has been stated in this thesis.