PREFACE
The Chiefs of Staff Committee can in one sense be regarded as the greatest of modern achievements in the field of military organisation and in another as the greatest of modern failures; great in conception and efficient in execution, it may be said to hold today the destiny of the world in collaboration with the scientist, the mechanical engineer and the politician. With the advent of parliamentary democracy in the 19th and 20th centuries, the Chiefs of Staff Committee emerged as a great organisational triumph, making possible the enforcement of the will of the people over the Armed Forces. The latter had hitherto been the exclusive prerogative of the Crown and though in the new set up they continued to be the most potent weapon of the executive, their deployment was tied through the iron rod of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Cabinet to the supreme will of the electorate. However, after World War II military planning has been guiding scientific inventions. This has resulted in the production of weapons of higher fire power than ever before culminating in the H-Bomb and thus jeopardising the very existence of the world. It is well-known that weapons of offence have excelled all methods of defence, resulting not only in the suicide of both the belligerents but also in the destruction of human civilisation itself. The use of these nuclear weapons in warfare would, in all probability, be made by nations that own them on the expert advice and recommendation of their Chief of Staff Committee. Thus, the institution of the Chiefs of Staff Committee as an expert planning body has had a tremendous influence on the economic and political activities of the 20th century State and is, therefore, of an all-absorbing interest to the student...
student of history and politics. An attempt has, therefore, been made in this work to describe the organisation of the Chiefs of Staff Committee along with its functions in the different types of States which exist today. As the Committee works in the closest co-operation with the highest political organs of the State, this study is primarily one in political organisation rather than in military strategy or formation. The sole justification for this work is the absence of literature on this important aspect of a political-military organ which, though working behind the curtain as a purely military institution, is nevertheless constantly advising the great politicians of the century and often determining the fate of nations.