PREFACE

It would be proper on my part to deal with the genesis of the present Ph. D. dissertation titled ‘Congress in the Politics of West Bengal: From Dominance to Marginality (1947-1977)’. It is in fact the days of my Post –Graduate studies in the Department of History, University of North Bengal, during the initial years of the 21st century; I was impressed very much by some discussions in the classes by our revered teachers of the Department. Some of these deliverances used to pick up some issues of the politics of Bengal in the first half of the 20th century and other times some historical events related to the politics of West Bengal in the post independent period. When I got a rare opportunity to carry on my Ph.D. work in the said Department, I got a privilege to think over such a theme after my choice and in the long run it was finalized in consultation with my supervisor.

In course of my study I was lucky enough to come in touch and to meet and consult a good number of stalwarts, both veteran politicians and renowned journalists who like living historians explained and analyzed which are not only rare but can hardly be found in any written documents. Incidentally, either they were participants in many political events of the period or could observe and record either in the form of memoirs or written books. I have tried my best to examine such sources in the light of connected documents or to test such materials from historical point of view. By the way I had also opportunities to consult many documents and research materials in some academic centers but I could not insert them in the present dissertation for some reasons or other. But I hope to utilize them, if possible, in my research in the days to come.

It is hope that the present work would encourage the next generation to take up and explore some other areas of research which have not been highlighted in the present work.