

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Since 2000 when I began this work, I have incurred the debt of gratitude that is simply immeasurable, and with apologies I wish to make my honest confessions in the outset that these acknowledgements constitute lesser than even the tip of the iceberg. Of course, every shortcoming in the present work is but my own.

I have been fortunate enough to get a committed Supervisor, Professor Soumitra De at the Department of Political Science, North Bengal University, who, despite his busy academic and administrative assignments and responsibilities, carved out long hours to lend me persistent guidance and direct me over the last six years, responding to my calls even at odd hours and extricating me from time and time again from numerous excesses I seem inevitably drawn towards. The present work also benefited from the comments, insights, and cooperation and support of my teachers Professor Pradip Kumar Sengupta, Professor Md. Yasin, Professor Manas Chakraborty, Professor Anup Datta, Dr. Arun K. Jana, Dr. Maya Ghosh and Prof. Dyutis Chakrabarti of the Department of Political Science, North Bengal University. I also thank Prof. Ranjita Chakraborty, my senior and presently a faculty member of the Department, for whatever support I have received from her in the present work.

I have benefited from a number of sources in preparing this dissertation. I am extremely grateful to the learned scholars, academicians and authors whose work I have extensively consulted during the course of my study. I would like to put on record my sincere thanks and gratefulness to Dr. John Barry of the School of Politics, Queen's University of Belfast, Dr. Cary Coglianese of John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Professor Alvin Y. So at the Division of Social Sciences, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Dr. Paul Routledge at the Department of Geography and Topographic Science, University of Glasgow, Scotland, Dr. Glyn Williams at the Department of Town and Regional Planning, University of Sheffield, Dr. Emma Mawdsley of Department of Geography, Cambridge University, Dr. Alf Gunvald Nilsen of University of Bergen,

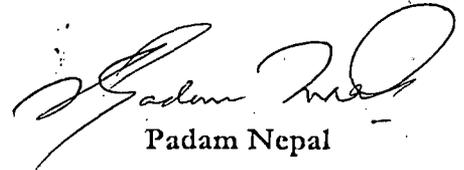
Norway and Dr. Pramod Parajuli, Associate Professor and Executive Director, PIIIECL, Graduate School of Education and Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University, who have provided me with their valuable research articles for reference as and when I requested them for. I would also like to thank Professor Priya Ranjan Trivedi at the Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment, New Delhi and founder President, Indian National Green Party for his kindness with which he provided me with the manifesto of the Green Party and spared his valuable time for some insightful discussions. My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. Amit Mitra, freelance researcher with whom I had the opportunity to discuss various issues pertaining to the subject of the present study in a series of discussions through internet.

The present work would not have been a success without the support and cooperation of the activists of the Chipko Movement and the Narmada Bachao Andolan, who have not only welcome me, but also fed and housed me with all possible hospitalities, and above all, shared their knowledge of, perspectives on, and experiences with the movements, on which the present work is built.

I also would sincerely like to acknowledge that the present work could not have come to fruition without the generous support of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for approving my leave under the Faculty Improvement Programme (FIP) for two years during which I conducted my field work and completed a bulk of my study. Getting by has entailed more than a little help from a host of friends and well wishers, for which I am privileged to thank Fr. (Dr.) P. J. Victor, SJ, Principal, and other colleagues at St Joseph's College, North Point, Darjeeling, specially Dr. Milindo Chakrabarti, who was a constant source of inspiration. Dr. Shanti Chhetry, Principal, P. D. Women's College, Jalpaiguri, Dr. Prof. Nilangshu Sekhar Das, Mathabhanga College, Dr. Ratri Nandi Das, Kalipada Ghosh Terai Mahavidhyalaya, Bagdogra also deserve special thanks for their love, care, and encouragements which provided me with energy and vigour to complete the present project.

Finally and most importantly I would like to thank all my family members whose unconditional love and support is the bedrock of all my pursuits. I am deeply indebted especially to my wife Nisha and my little son Pragun for their cooperation, forbearance and quiet encouragement, and, as a small token of appreciation for all this, I dedicate this thesis to them.

Darjeeling,
February 2007.



Padam Nepal