

PREFACE

The journey as a Ph.D. research scholar constitutes some of the best and worst memories of an individual. One is sandwiched between time restraint and quality reproduction along with many social and personal responsibilities. Many a times drafting and redrafting and redrafting shakes the inner core of the scholars, but all the hard work is worth after accomplishing the work. My Love for history was since childhood when my grandfather would tell me the stories about Babur and Gandhi and how he participates in the freedom struggle of India. The urge of studying this subject was so much that even after scoring well in science and Math in my class 12 ISC Board , I opted for studying History (Hons) in m graduations leaving aside my Father's dream of becoming an engineer.

Hindu college, Delhi University was the first abode were I my training to be a professional historian began. Being in personal contact with Professor Nandita Sahay, Professor Archana Verma, Professor Tripta wahi, Professor D.N.Gupta and Professor Ratan Lal at Hindu college during my college Days further deepened my love for history. It was Professor Ratan Lal who seeded the germs of to be historian in my mind and continuously guarded me against getting away from academics. At Masters in Delhgi University I meet a bandwagon of stalwarts who were highly qualified and trained historians. I think it is at this stage when an individual is at the most crucial phase of his life. In my masters I got the required exposure to develop critical thinking and treat History not as a living subject.

I would like to heartily thank some of the faculties who were very close to me and continuously guided me throughout the course. To name a few are Prof. S.Z.H. Jafri, Prof. R.P.Rana, Prof. Amar Farooqi, Prof. Sunil Kumar, Prof B.P.Sahoo, Prof Parbhu Mahapatra, Prof. Shaid Amin, Prof. Dilip Menon, Prof Vijay Singh, Prof. T.K.V Subramaniam, Prof D.N.Jha, and Prof Shrimali. My special regards for MPhil guide Prof. S.Z.H. Jafri is my obligation to mention here because whatever pebbles I have picked in the vast shore of academics is all because of this Sufi saint, who still runs his Khanqah at his hometown. Thanks to my best friend Minakshee without her nothing seemed possible in Delhi. At University of North Bengal I meet some fantastic colleagues who kept on encouraging me to complete my research work. I am thankful to all the faculty members of University of North Bengal and especial thanks to Prof. Ananda Gopal Ghosh, Bongo Ratna awardee. The history of North Bengal is incomplete without the magnificent works of Professor Ghosh, one of the living stalwarts of Bengal. It's my honor to work under him as a PhD scholar and I thank you so much for accepting me as your student and giving me all the space to develop my own ideas in my research. I would also like to thank Taniya Sengupta for her excellent researches on colonial governance and spatial cultures, which formed the base for this work and would have been incomplete without it.

I would like to thank the staff members of all the libraries I visited during my research. I also thank to all my friends, my juniors and my seniors for always being with me at some stage of life. My journey would be incomplete without thanking my parents, my only brother, my only son Sufi and my life mate Minakshee.