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## Preface

The present study has grown out of my M.Phil. dissertation in Political Science which I submitted to the university of North Bengal in 1995, a decade after the historic Assam Accord. At that point I became aware of the deep connections between the Assam Movement and such political developments like the emergence of ULFA, NDFB, BLT, the growing ferment among the religious and linguistic minorities of this region and so on. Yet I felt the need to make a systematic study of these developments as this felt connection seemed inadequate to explain this noticeable change in the rhythm of politics of this region. Hence this study.

Politics in the Brahmaputra Valley is a complex subject with many issues and dimensions involved in it. Any attempt to deal with it, however objective one might try to be cannot be above controversy. Yet we have made an attempt to be as objective as possible in our effort to answer the questions that we have considered important, not objectively we suppose, but only by their relative lack of consideration in the existing literature. Again, we do not claim any credit for being comprehensive, for we are only too aware of the limits of our data collection efforts in the field, offices and establishments in all too palpable atmosphere of tension, anxiety and suspicion that now haunts any researcher in this part of the country. We would be happy nevertheless if our study leads to an animated discussion and review by those who have the ability and will to do something better for this region.

Now, I desire to take the opportunity of extending my heartfelt thanks to my eminent teachers, relatives and well-wishers without whose help, support, co-operation, advice and encouragement this work would not have been completed. First and foremost, I express my deep respect, reverence and thanks to my supervisor, Dr. Soumitra De, Reader, Deptt. of Political Science, North Bengal University without whose proper guidance and valuable suggestions this work would have been impossible. I am also grateful to all the teachers, staff and scholars of the Deptt. of Political Science of North Bengal University who have helped me in one way or the other. Other persons from whom I have received help and encouragement are Sri Amulya Kr. Biswas, ex-President, U.M.F., Assam, Sri Ranjan Dutta of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Gauhati, Nripesh Roy of Barpeta Road, M. Talukdar, State Executive Committee member of CPI(M), Assam, my colleagues of my college, and all others whom I cannot acknowledge by name.

My deepest thanks are to my wife, Jaya Biswas(Kunda) and my daughter, Barsha, who had patiently borne out my absence from my place and demanding schedule of work. I must also acknowledge my gratefulness to my parents, friends and Smt. Manashi De, wife of my supervisor, and all my well-wishers for their moral support and encouragement. Not the least, my hearty thanks go to Sri Mridul Goswami for typesetting and Sri Amit Pal for formatting the thesis. Moreover, I must add that any shortcomings of my work are entirely my own.