

## **PREFACE**

My interest in the study of political history of Urban Darjeeling developed about two decades ago when I used to accompany my father during his official visits to the different corners of the hills of Darjeeling. Indeed, I have learnt from him my first lesson of history, society, economy, politics and administration of the hill town Darjeeling. My rearing in Darjeeling hills (from Kindergarten to College days) helped me to understand the issues with a difference. My parents provided the every possible congenial space to learn and understand the history of Darjeeling and history of the people of Darjeeling. Soon after my post-graduation from this University, located in the foot-hills of the Darjeeling Himalayas, I was encouraged to take up a study on Darjeeling by my teachers. However, for different reasons the interests never got satisfied. I had almost given up the idea when Professor P.K. Sengupta, the then Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce and Law suggested me to undertake such research work under Dr. D.K. Sarkar, formerly Reader in Political Science, Presidency College, Kolkata who is, at present, Controller of Examinations, North Bengal University. I am indeed grateful to Dr. D.K. Sarkar for his incessant inspiration. The submission of this work in the form of a thesis would not have been possible without the active support, kind academic care and guidance of my research supervisor Dr. D.K. Sarkar and Professor P.K. Sengupta, Department of Political Science, my Co-supervisor. In fact they have

provided the required enlightenments to understand the principal issues of my research studies both conceptually and operationally.

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