A Note on the Contributors

The authors of the essays in this volume are members of the Faculty of the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. B. D. Chattopadhyaya has published a study of coins and currency in South India and a survey of research on the historical geography of ancient India; his recent research has been on early medieval India. R. Champakalakshmi has written a monograph on South Indian iconography; her current research interests are in the areas of religion and society and the process of urbanization in early medieval South India. Neeladri Bhattacharya, after completing his doctoral dissertation on agrarian change in Punjab in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, is engaged in research on the making of colonial economic policies in the same period. Muzaffar Alam's forthcoming monograph is on the crisis of the Mughal empire in North India in the first half of the eighteenth century; he is currently studying the emergence of regional principalities in eastern India in the eighteenth century. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya's early work was on Indian public finance and aspects of the growth of a colonial economy in eastern India in the late nineteenth century; more recently he is into Indian labour history. Bipan Chandra is the author of a number of works on economic nationalism, colonialism, communalism and the nationalist movement; his current project, with a team of five others, is the history of the Indian freedom struggle, particularly in the twentieth century. Aditya Mukherjee is writing his dissertation on the Indian capitalist class in the decades preceding independence, the subject of some of his research papers; he teaches courses in Contemporary History. Bhagwan Joshi also teaches in that stream of specialization in the area of parties and politics; he is writing his dissertation on the Left and the national movement in India, 1934-40, on which he has some published research. K. Meenakshi, an expert in linguistics in the Centre for Historical Studies, has worked on the syntactical aspects of language, especially Sanskrit; her research is now focused on ancient Indian grammatical works and
socio-linguistic aspects of Indo-Aryan languages and linguistic convergence. Romila Thapar’s research interest has been in India in the first millennium BC and her early work was on the Mauryas; more recently her research has been on state formation in the Ganga valley as well as early Indian historical traditions. Kunal Chakrabarti’s dissertation will be on the process of Brahmanization of the indigenous religious base in early medieval Bengal; he is also interested in the cultural significance of myth and symbols. K. N. Panikkar’s early publications were in the area of nineteenth-century British diplomacy vis-à-vis the princely states of North India. His current research interest is the intellectual and cultural history of modern India. Satish Saberwal, a sociologist at the Centre for Historical Studies, has published ethnographical studies of the Embu of Central Kenya and of a Punjab industrial town; he has moved now to comparative long-term studies, particularly of societies in Western Europe and India.