FOREWORD

ON BEHALF OF the Publication Committee of the Comprehensive History of India sponsored by the Indian History Congress, I have great pleasure in presenting Volume III, Part II, covering the period A.D. 300 to 985. It had been decided by the Publication Committee that on account of its bulk Volume III should be split up into two parts, Part I dealing with political history and organization and Part II with social, economic, religious and cultural conditions. Together the two parts comprise almost 1600 pages. The volume owes much to Dr. R. C. Majumdar who had planned it and, despite his indifferent health, managed to edit it in his lifetime. Dr. R. C. Majumdar was ably assisted in this work by Dr. Kalyan Kumar Dasgupta who, in his capacity as Joint Editor of the volume, gave finishing touches to it. We take this opportunity to pay our respectful tribute of gratitude to the memory of Dr. R. C. Majumdar. We sincerely thank Dr. K. K. Dasgupta, but for whose help and devoted labour the volume could not have been published.

Although there has been a good deal of delay in the publication of the various projected volumes, we are heartened by the generous response of the academic community to the volumes published so far. In fact, several volumes have been out of print for some time. The Publication Committee plans to reprint them soon, after such revision as may be necessary. It is also hoped that in the light of the experience gained with the publication of the Volume III (Part I and Part II) in 1981-82, it would be possible to expedite the publication programme. The Publication Committee wishes to publish one volume a year so that the project may be completed within a time period.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to those scholars who have enabled this cooperative work to be brought to fruition. Our grateful thanks are due to Dr. K. M. Shrimali for reading the proofs and seeing the volume through the press at the final stage. We are further thankful to Shri V. K. Jain who has prepared a good portion of the index with great pains and integrated the entries made by others.
Shri R. K. Dutta Gupta, Shri Sovan Chatterjee and Mrs. Kumkum Singh of the Photo Section of the Archeological Survey of India have helped in procuring the photographs. Shri Pradeep Mandav, Mrs. Vijay Nath and a number of young scholars have rendered various kinds of assistance; they all deserve our thanks for their hard labour. Finally, I would like to acknowledge with thanks the keen interest and cooperation of the People’s Publishing House and its staff for bringing this volume out in such a short time.

Satish Chandra
Secretary, Editorial Board
A Comprehensive History of India

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