This book is written for the special benefit of students reading for the Bachelor's degree of Indian Universities. But we hope it will be useful to all persons who want more knowledge of Indian history than a school text-book provides. It is difficult to meet the requirements of the student as also the general reader. But that has been our aim.

Many learned monographs are published every year, which light up obscure corners of Indian history, give us new interpretations of old facts or bring new facts to our knowledge. In view of this almost incessant research work of our generation, standard histories of the last generation have to be completely revised and re-written, or set aside as obsolete. This book is, we hope, a fairly connected and up-to-date review, which also gives an appreciation of personalities and presents before the reader the complexity and variety of the strands that have been woven together into the history of India. In so complicated a story much must remain untold. There is little space in our book for controversy.

It is not the work of a single mind, nor is it a composite history written by specialists. There may be some lack of literary unity; we did not, however, carefully allot space to each other, demanding a severe effort at compression, but left each of us to deal as best as he could in that portion of Indian history in which he is interested. No doubt we compared notes in the end. We hope our readers will not find here the usual defects of a composite history. If it is not erudite, we hope it is not also dull.

College students should read more history than less, and we have given at the end of each chapter a list of monographic literature over which they should learn to browse freely.

N. K. Sinha

A. C. Banerjee

April 20, 1944
PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

In this edition the book has been thoroughly revised and brought up-to-date, two new Chapters and several Genealogical Tables have been added, and an attempt has been made to make the narrative more simple and interesting.

N. K. Sinha
August 15, 1947
A. C. Banerjee

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

We have once more revised the text and added new matter here and there. The last chapter has been rewritten and brought up-to-date

N. K. Sinha
March 24, 1950
A. C. Banerjee