

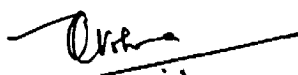
## Foreword

"Read and re-read the campaigns of Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Gustavus Adolphus, Turenne, Eugene and Fredrick; take them for your model: that is the only way of becoming a great captain to obtain the secret of the art of war." This was the dictat of Napoleon. "Fools say that they learn from their own experience, I have always contrived to get my experience at the expense of others." The practical value of military history could not perhaps be better expressed than through the aforesaid quote from Bismarck, the German Chancellor, who propounded the policy of "Blood and Iron".

The ignorance of history can prove disastrous. An in-depth study of past events not only illuminates but also germinates new ideas which can provide the basis for future policies and plans. This is more true of military history than any other discipline.

India won a convincing victory against Pakistan in the 1971 War, which involved all the three Services. The present history seeks to record the events of the War in an objective manner. It is hoped that military planners and professional soldiers would be able to draw appropriate lessons from this publication.

28th Oct, 1992  
New Delhi

  
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