COMMUNISM IN INDIA
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Foreword

This volume on the Communist movement in India by Gene D. Overstreet and Marshall Windmiller was written under the auspices of the Modern India Project at the University of California, Berkeley. The Modern India Project was established in the spring of 1954 to encourage research on Indian political parties, leadership, and issues. Financial support for the efforts of the project was granted by the Ford Foundation, and the University of California undertook to provide the institutional base from which the several researches of the project could be carried on.

No set of ideas, institutions, or techniques of political action have had a greater impact on world and national politics in recent years than those reflected in the Communist movement. India, seeking national freedom and social welfare, was influenced by the ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and others of Marxian persuasion, as was the rest of the world.

The main vehicle of these ideas was the Communist Party of India, and no understanding of Indian history since World War I is possible without an examination of this Party and its relation to world communism and Indian nationalism. The authors, both political scientists, have analyzed this broad canvas of recent Indian history, emphasizing the Communist Party of India, but giving due attention to the details of Communist and non-Communist international influences on the course of Indian communism.

The objectives of this study are twofold: to examine in detail the
Communist movement in India, historically and analytically; and to throw light on the complex arena of Indian and world Communist politics. In relation to the objectives of the Modern India Project, this is a study of a major Indian political party, in its world-wide as well as its national context; it constitutes an examination of one important group of political leaders in India; and it is concerned with a series of significant political issues that have arisen within the past four decades.

This study may be considered controversial on the grounds alone of its subject matter. However, the authors have gone to the sources painstakingly to assure themselves of accuracy. Those who have studied the Communist movement in various parts of the world will realize how difficult it is at times to discover truth where evidence is scanty and contemporary interpretation is carefully covered over with purposeful obscurantism.

This comprehensive, carefully detailed study should contribute to a better understanding of the form and process of Indian politics and of the world Communist movement.

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This book is the result of library and field research in the United States, Europe, and India. Mr. Overstreet was in India from 1953 to 1955; Mr. Windmiller was there in 1953–1954 and again in 1955. The authors have pooled their skills and materials, which were in large degree complementary. In the preparation of the first draft, Mr. Overstreet wrote chapters 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20 and the introduction and postscript, while Mr. Windmiller wrote chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 16, 17, 21 and the biographical chapter. Each chapter was subsequently revised after joint consultation, and the conclusions were written jointly.

Obvious errors of punctuation and spelling in cited material have
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been corrected by the authors when this could be done without altering the meaning, and for consistency British spelling has been changed to American forms. The spelling of Indian proper names has been standardized with the use of those forms which appear to be most frequently used by the persons concerned.

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Others who have aided us will, we hope, accept a general expression of our appreciation. It remains only to be said that we alone are responsible for the accuracy of fact and correctness of interpretation of all that is discussed in this book.

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