The fortunes of the Rayas of Vijayanagara were greatly affected by external factors. It will not be wrong to say that the origin, growth and finally the decay of the Vijayanagara kingdom were determined to a large extent by external factors. It is necessary for the student of history to find out the nature and essence of these factors. It is also necessary to find out how the rulers of Vijayanagara tried to deal with these factors; whether these rulers had a fixed policy towards their neighbours or whether the policy was mainly an admixture of circumstances.

Here is an attempt to find out the basic principles of foreign policy of Vijayanagar, their relations with the neighbouring states and the Portuguese. The study covers the period from 1500-1630 AD - the period when Vijayanagar empire was at its heyday of glory and also the beginning of its days of decline and fall.

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