Flaming youth has become a flaming question. And youth comes to us wanting to know what we may propose to do about a society that hurts so many of them.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his *April 1936 Address*
The youth movement which started in the US and other parts of Western Europe during late 1960s had a profound significance in the realm of social movements all over the world. The events began in the US at Berkeley in the Fall of 1964. It started as a student protest against the university administration and its order forbidding political activity -- specifically, the recruiting, fund raising and organizing of students for political action off campus. Soon 450 colleges and universities culminated it into a nation wide protest. Youth radicalism emerged as a phenomenon. It began stressing the organizational activities for the Civil rights, Blacks Liberation, Educational Reform, Opposition to Draft and Vietnam War, and in moments and places Social Reconstruction.

The Youth Movement in India also underwent a radical change in late 1960s. In 1969 April from a small village called Naxalbari, sprang up the Naxalite Movement spearheaded by Charu Mazumdar which attracted many students and brought several youth under its fold. In fact, Presidency College of Calcutta became a breeding ground for the Naxalites. In the years that followed the Naxalite Movement split into several groups -- the major among them being the Konda Palli faction in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa and Kanhu Sanyal faction in Bengal and Bihar in 1972.
The emergence of Indian Peoples Front in 1980 marked yet another event, when the Naxalites entered into the electoral fray, within the parameters of Parliamentary Democracy.

Assam was another unique experience. Three years of prolonged struggle by All Assam Students Union (AASU) and its electoral merger with Purvanchal Lok Parishad (PLP) brought Assam Gana Parishad to power in 1983, first time in the world, a government being formed by the students. But soon after assuming power the discontent began simmering. Bodo Students Union (BSU) in the Gangetic planes and United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) in upper region, the other militant youth outfits formed almost parallel governments defying the state authority with their own Executive, Judiciary and Legislature.

The whole of North Eastern States have been full of youth insurgents with National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NCSN) in Nagaland. Mizo National Front (MNF) in Manipur, Tripura National Volunteer (TNV) in Tripura. Although after the formation of Hill Council in Darjeeling the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) is playing cool, radicalism is still on their agenda. The various factions of All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) after 1984 November and Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) have all advocated and practiced militant ideology.
The **Peoples War Group** in Andhra Pradesh has mainly been comprised of the tribal youths. They have developed a short-term strategy of kidnapping and keeping them hostages for bargain and negotiations. All these developments make an interesting study of social dynamics in India.

The American youth movement compared to their Indian counterpart was primarily campus -- based and had a different experience. Fed up with industrial military bureaucratic nexus, the youths adhered to the New Left Movement as their ideological basis to pursue their struggle. As the movement started to reverberate, the deepening frustrations of the participants gave it a militant tone. The general mood for strikes was increasingly directed by politically sophisticated black students. Apart from university reforms and the Vietnam war, the movement centred around the black students demands, with the active participation of the Third World Groups, the support of **Students for Democratic Society** (SDS), **Students Non-violent Co-ordination Committee** (SNCC), un-affiliated students and finally Union of Teachers, Teaching Assistants and some Community Groups. **Black Muslims** and **Black Panthers Party** also played a very prominent role in American Youth Movements. All of them professed militant ideology. Against this background, the American Youth Movement differed from Indian Youth Movement, although both had radical overtones.
The study has attempted a comparative analysis of the trends and features of the radical youth movement in both the countries.

The First Chapter of the present thesis deals with the genesis and theoretical formulations of the youth movements. In fact it is the scholars like David Riesman, Eric Fromm, John Paul Sartre etc., who have given the intellectual foundation to the youth movement the world over. C. Wright Mills emphasised the evils of corporate capitalism by exposing military-industrial-bureaucratic nexus which was the major cause behind immediate campus tension in the United States' context. The legendary Naxalite leader Charu Mazumdar's call to students for "street fighting getting rid of books" witnessed a spectacular scenario of tens and hundreds of brilliant students even from elite institutions like Presidency College of Calcutta joining the ranks of Naxalites. The Chapter makes a note of all these developments with reviewing selected literature.

The Second Chapter deals with Radical Youth Movements in the United States. The Chapter focuses on New idealism blended with activism that witnessed the transformation of Campus based student organizations from moderate theoretical debate to militant action. This has taken into account the activities of student Non-Violence Co-ordination Committee and students for a Democratic Society ranging from Campus campaign to community organizing. Towards the end of the Chapter
the activity of post-1967 radicals are dealt with. The Youth militancy during this phase was at its Zenith from University strike to street fighting.

The Third Chapter throws light on the Growing Phenomenon of Radicalism in Indian Youth movement. In fact in the beginning of 1970s, the fever of Marxism was running high in the body chemistry of Indian youth Movement. Although the onslaught of emergency brutally suppressed the Naxalite Movement in West Bengal, the land of its origin, it resurfaced again in new forms with enormous minion outfits like Indian Peoples Front, Peoples War Group, Maoist Party etc.

With land ceiling Not implemented properly in rural India, and youth suffering from a general sense of alienation, poverty, hunger, unemployment, destitution looming large, these outfits have been successful in drawing a large stream of tribal youth into their organizational fold. These trained gun totting youth who seek instant revenge against their class enemies often pose an embarrassment to the State, Police and the administration. The Chapter also deals with the cultural alienation in the North Eastern States that has resulted massive upsurges in recent times. It has attempted a trend analysis of United Liberation Front of Assam, Bodo Students Union, Mizo National Front and All Assam Students Union. The youth movements in other parts of India have also been considered on a select basis so as to analyze the orientation and trends of Radical youth activism.
The Fourth Chapter has attempted a comparative Trend analysis of Youth radicalism in United States and India.

The dramatic differences between the experiences of youth activities in the industrialized nation and Third World is the key analytic variable in the realm of youth activism. Yet an account of experiences as dealt in this chapter reveals that Disenchantment with the status-quo in both these cases was the fermenting oven for the rebellious attitude. This is a clear point of convergence.

The ideological orientation of youth activism in both the countries are also analyzed in this chapter. Although New Left was the Cardinal guiding Principle of the American Youth Movements in the beginning of the Sixties, the early seventies marked a shift of trend with organizations like student non-violence co-ordination Committee and Students for a Democratic Society resorting to militant activities and street fighting. Indian experience was fragmented by multiple ideological basis ranging from ultra left to extreme right. In United States the movement was mostly confined to the campus, although it did generate a lot of public opinion outside. In Indian context the movement often shifted outside the University walls directly challenging the Political System. The Assam experience is an unique one where perhaps first time in the world a student government was installed in the state, Student leaders moving from student’s union office to the State Secretariat. This is
a point indicator of divergence. The chapter has also dealt at length the governmental approaches to radicalism in both United States and India.

The concluding chapter makes an evaluation of Radical Youth Movements in both the countries. In the United States' context the movement that rocked the entire nation during 1960s came to a stunning halt in spite of the well centred issues and public support that the movement did receive. New left committed a series of errors that contributed to its loss of appeal among the Youth. The divisiveness of the movement rapped its vigour and militated against consolidation. By 1969, going through a long chequered history the movement was in shambles.

The Indian experience is however different. Although after the brutal suppression of Naxalite movement during the emergency period, organised radicalism as an youth agenda is relegated to the background, youth movements have not died down. From Peoples War Group of Andhra Pradesh to United Liberation Front of Assam, the Youth is seething for a warfare against the system. Its emotional upsurge and suicidal tendency can be clearly studied in the context of Anti-Mandal agitation when hundreds of students went for self-immolation that shocked the entire nation.

Perhaps this is the dichotomy between development and transition. An industrialized nation that has already witnessed cross generational transition is better
able to cope with the stress and strain of the system, but in Third World context the process might take a bit longer time for absorption.