Preface

This is a study of foreign policy of Russia under Vladimir Putin. This period under review, in many ways can be called Putin years of Russian Foreign Policy because he has given coherence and specific direction to it. President Putin came on the scene at end of the millennium as well as end of the Yeltsin era. Hence it is an important period for our study of Russia's foreign policy. This study is divided in five chapters. In the first chapter entitled 'Background: Origin and Development of Russian Foreign Policy'. We have reviewed the formative phase of Russian Foreign Policy 1991-1999. The chapter examines the background, origin and the development of the Russian foreign policy.

The second chapter titled 'Beginning of Putin Era: Reorientation in Russian Foreign Policy' deals with the circumstances under which Putin assumed Russian leadership, the challenges that he faced, and his major foreign policy formulations.

The third chapter titled 'Foreign Policy Towards The US and The West', deals with the ebb and flow of Russia's relations with the US and the West, especially Germany, France and UK and how a balance between the US and the West was marked in it.

In the fourth chapter titled 'Relations with Asian Countries: Focus on India, China, Japan and Iran', Russia's attempt to build constructive partnership with major Asian countries such as China, India, Japan and Iran has been dealt with.

In the fifth chapter titled 'Relations with CIS Countries' we have discussed how the Russia's approach and
policy towards its near abroad, i.e. Commonwealth of Independent States. The main findings of the study have been given in the conclusion.

The study is descriptive, historical and analytical, based on both primary and secondary sources.

I hope my effort in presenting this study has been successful although I take the responsibility for any omissions or mistakes.

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