P R E F A C E

Traditionally India has had close links with the Gulf countries; geographical proximity is only one of several elements. There are features of complementarity which have not been utilised to any great extent for mutual benefit by the Gulf countries or India. With better information and improved perceptions, they can help one another forward in their development endeavours, particularly at the present time when regional economic cooperation is taking shape in the Gulf area and Indian policy-makers, while framing the Seventh Plan have given full consideration to this trend.

The present thesis is a modest attempt to go into the vicissitudes of India's relations with four major Gulf states—Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, in recent times. Chapter I, which is intended to serve as introduction, is a brief historical sketch of Indo-Gulf relations. Chapter II deals with the political phenomena of India’s relations with the Gulf countries with special emphasis on diplomatic success India has been able to score at present. Chapter III attempts to study the progress of cultural and technical links between the two regions. Chapter IV dwells upon economic contacts and emphasises the fact that despite easier situation in the contemporary world oil market India's dependence on the Gulf crude would remain for the longer time. Lastly, Chapter V, that is conclusion, makes a general assessment of the entire relationship between India and the Gulf area.

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