The British rulers of India had evolved a special relationship with Afghanistan. When the First World War broke out, the Amir of Afghanistan made friendly overtures to the British Indian Government. The Amir's close ties with Britain and his neutrality in the First World War were not popular in his own country. High officials, princes and people in general opposed friendly relations with Britain. They wanted to establish closer relationships with the Central Powers, which depicted themselves as champions of the liberation of the people of India and Afghanistan.

This dissertation attempts to study Anglo-Afghan relations in the context of the combined struggle of the people of India and Afghanistan against British Imperialism. The Afghan Princes, high officials and people, against the wishes of their king, openly went against British policy in India and supported the Indian revolutionaries in Afghanistan.

Apart from the Archival material available in India and Britain, I have also consulted Persian, Urdu and Pashto sources. Though the Afghanistan National Archives are not yet organized, I was given the opportunity to consult some of the records. The autobiographies in Urdu of Indian
revolutionaries and other officials actively involved in this period have also been studied.

I thank the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for granting a fellowship which enabled me to complete this study.

I am extremely grateful to my Supervisor, Professor M. Zuberi, who encouraged and helped me at every stage of my research - from suggesting the topic and sources to be consulted to the drafting of the manuscript.

I take this opportunity to thank the Committee of Advanced Study and Research of the School of International Studies which sanctioned me a field trip to consult British records available in London. I am also thankful to my teacher Professor Mir Husain Shah, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Kabul University, who granted me leave to complete my research.

I would like to thank Professor S.A.I. Tirmizi, Director of the National Archives of India, who helped me in securing permission from the Ministry of External Affairs to consult the records of the Foreign and Political and Foreign Secret Department of the closed period. I also thank Mr Bloomfield, Director of India Office Library and Records, London, who extended his cooperation in consulting the records in London.

Dated: 8 April 1983.

ABDUL ALI ARGHANDAWI