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The purpose of this study is to examine Indo-Soviet relationship focusing on the working of Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation that was signed on 9 August 1971. The period covered by this study is 1971-86.

Although a vast amount of literature is available on Indo-Soviet relationship, a study of such relationship based on the working of the Treaty is lacking. This important international document representing a landmark in India's foreign policy as well as her relations with the Soviet Union gained unprecedented attention. It raised some questions as well since the ambit of the relationship was put into a new cast through formalisation of the relationship through a treaty. What would be the future nature of India's relationship with that country in bilateral economic, military and political areas? Could India, being a recognised leader of the Non-Aligned Movement retain her independence in those areas by tying herself closely with a Super Power through a treaty? Conversely what were the benefits that India could derive from it without losing her freedom of action in these areas. By trying to make an objective analysis of the post-Treaty evolution of Indo-Soviet relations in crucial areas of India's national interest -- this study seeks to make a fresh assessment of the already existing close relationship from the perspective of the Treaty. It will try to find out the reasons for close Indo-Soviet friendship as well as the areas of divergence noted in the relations by focusing on the significant areas of interaction between the two countries and unfold in that process the different nuances of the developing relationship between a Super Power and a Regional Power having different social, economic and political systems. This is comprehensive study covering almost all aspects of
Indo-Soviet relationship -- and is an humble effort to fill up the gap of non-availability of such work up to this point of time.

The thesis is divided into six chapters. Introducing the subject, the First Chapter looks into the genesis and nature of the Indo-Soviet Treaty. Since the Treaty did not develop in a vacuum the search for the origin of the Treaty covers both the immediate as well as its long-term context.

Chapter Two focuses on the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971 being the first crucial test of the Treaty. It examines the content and nature of Soviet support to India during the war with a simultaneous analysis of India's response to those policies.

Chapter Three deals with the military dimension of the relationship and Chapter Four examines the economic content of the connection. The relationship in both cases has been analysed in terms of Soviet Union's contribution to India's economic and defence development programme setting them against the caveats that remained in these relations with a focus on India's declared policy in those areas.

Chapter Five deals with the regional component of the political relationship between India and the Soviet Union. China has been identified as an important issue which had all along been an important factor in Indo-Soviet relationship both during the periods of Sino-Indian and sino-Soviet rapprochement. Soviet intervention in a non-aligned country, Afghanistan in December 1979, though related to a third country affair acquired importance as another regional issue so far as it related to the operation of Indo-Soviet diplomacy because the event
had implications for India's non-aligned status as well as her relations with USA and Pakistan, lending a new dimension to India's relationship with the two Super Powers.

Chapter Six focuses on the international setting of Indo-Soviet political relations. It studies the respective policies pursued by the two countries in the crucial field of nuclear disarmament, focusing on the convergence and divergence of opinions in different areas relating to nuclear disarmament against the background of each country's security concerns. This chapter also deals with Indo-Soviet diplomacy at the forum of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). A close study of India's journey from the Sixth Non-Aligned Summit in Havana to the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit in New Delhi has been made to review each country's perception about non-alignment as also ascertain the credibility of India's stand at the NAM forum as a leading non-aligned country.

The last chapter presents the conclusions drawn from the pattern and dynamics of Indo-Soviet relationship in the light of the operation of the Indo-Soviet Treaty during a span of fifteen years.

The research has been carried out on the basis of the primary evidences available in India. Since most of the information came out of New Delhi than out of Moscow, there has been a natural temptation to focus on the Indian side of the line although all the available materials from Moscow have been used.

I wish to express my heartiest thanks and sincere gratitude to my esteemed Supervisor, Dr. Nancy Jetly, Associate Professor at the Centre for South, Central, South-East Asian and
South West Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, for her scholarly guidance and constructive criticism which helped me immensely to improve my thesis. I am also grateful to Professor I.N. Mukherjee of the above Centre and Professor H.S. Chopra of the Centre for American and West European Studies, for their valuable suggestions. My gratitude goes to Dr. Bimal Prasad, Ex-Professor at the Centre for South, Central, South-East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and former Ambassador to Nepal, for initiating me into this project.

I will be failing in my duty if I don’t express my sincere thanks to Dr. Atri Chatterjee, Principal, Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College, for making necessary arrangement, of leave for continuing my research in Delhi. I deeply appreciate the constant encouragement rendered to me by my other colleagues and friends in my College which sustained me in my effort.

My special thanks go to the Librarians and Staff of the Libraries at the Indian Council of World Affairs (Delhi), and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (Delhi), who often gave help way beyond the call of duty. The Staff of the Libraries at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ministry of Finance (North Block), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the American Centre in New Delhi also rendered me useful service. I also received valuable assistance from the Staff of the Library, Gorky Sadan (Calcutta) and Tarak Nath Das Research Centre (Jadavpur University, Calcutta).

I thank Shri S.R. Aiyer for the prompt word-processing rendered at the final stage and Shri Dibakar Karmakar (Staff, Jadavpur University, Shri Vinod Sharma and Smt. Nutan Sachdeva (Staff, EPIL) for rendering such assistance at different phases of the work.
This work would not have been possible without the encouragement from the members of my family. I am particularly indebted to my husband Shri Sujoy Roy without whose unstinted support and cooperation the work would not have seen the light of the day. My personal thanks go to my children as well for their forbearance while I was writing.

Finally, I gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the ICSSR and the UGC.