The relations among nations are governed by a set of rules. The rules governing the use of force in international relations have been evolving slowly since the end of the First World War. The need to limit the use of force by emphasizing on pacific settlement of disputes has been the major concern of the international community. The League Covenant and the United Nations Charter, after the Second World War have sought to make significant contribution in this respect. Hence international community is aiming to evolve in a manner that there is diminishing resort to force in relations among nations.

Sophisticated weapons and the suicidal effects of their use, have led to the preservation of peace because war would be tantamount to total destruction. Thus, the international politics in the post-Cold War period has been characterized by a widespread desire to avoid large-scale war especially in situations that could become nuclear. So increasingly, the natural option in coercive international relations is for non-military measures, mostly economic sanctions.

The emergence of the United States as the leader of
this interdependent world has generated awareness that suggested it to apply relative caution and restraint in making foreign policy decisions, as now farmers in Iowa worries about grain surpluses and deficits in Soviet Union, China and a host of other countries. Planners of aerospace industries nervously watch events in Southern Africa, the sources for many of the rare metals needed in the manufacture of their products¹ and so on.

The proposed study intends to investigate the role of U.S. imposed economic sanctions and international relations. While investigating, the international responses have been taken into account along with the role of the United States seeking political change through imposition of sanctions on domestic interest groups in the target country which contributes to the efficacy of sanctions.

For this purpose, the study has been divided into seven chapters. The First Chapter deals with the theoretical aspects. The Second gives a historical profile of sanctions in international relations. Chapters three, four and five constitute the main thrust of the study.

The Chapter three highlights the United States objective of seeking political change by imposition of sanctions on the target country. Chapter four has discussed the international responses to sanctions-imposition by the U.S. The fifth chapter attempts a study of how the implementation and imposition of economic sanctions is influenced by the interest group activities in both the protagonist and the target countries. However, any study of international relations of this kind will be incomplete without discussing the cost effectiveness of sanctions as a policy instrument. Therefore, Chapter VI of the study throws a light on this aspect. Lastly, Chapter VII concludes the study.

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