PREFACE

One of the several epoch-making events of this century that have led to the realisation of democratic values and human rights is the end of apartheid in South Africa and the coming into being of a non-racial government. It took several years of concerted struggles and tragic loss of lives and wealth for this dream to come true. Apartheid state oppression, unprecedented degree of township violence and destruction of economic bases (particularly in the violence-hit areas) have left a sort of permanent scar on the minds of many South Africans. A pessimist could have easily forecast a period of doom considering the high degree of uncertainty that had prevailed in the country towards the end of 1980s and early 1990s. But the events took a different turn much to the relief of not just South Africans, but the peoples of the world in general.

When this research was just at the stage of conception, South Africa was burning. Newspaper reports and other mass media were full of news on the fast changing political developments. What was particularly striking was the fierce fighting in Natal region between supporters of Inkatha and the ANC and the diametrically opposite stands of the two parties on the issue of negotiation and future political structure. The curiosity to know the intricacies of the issues involved in all these developments was the reason for making an in-depth study of Inkatha.
In South Africa, the ANC has received accolades to such an extent that, an impression has been created as if, it is solely responsible for change in the country. As seen in other cases, no struggles of any kind can be monolithic. Different actors and organisations contribute in various ways to the success of struggle. Keeping this basic understanding in mind, the present study seeks to analyse the distinctive roles of Inkatha in the anti-apartheid struggles of South Africa. It is imperative to correct the existing anomaly in our knowledge about South Africa.

In this context the aim of the present research is to make an in-depth study of Inkatha since its formation. The objective is to analyse Inkatha’s role in anti-apartheid struggles vis-à-vis other political organisations like the ANC, the SACP, etc. Though the study is not comparative in nature, its focus is on the internal political dynamics of the country where not only the Inkatha and the ANC were involved but also the apartheid regime played a significant role. Inkatha’s nature as a political formation, its link with Zulus and also the leadership of Mangosuthu Buthelezi need to be discussed in great detail. Was it an ethnic organisation or something more than that? Has it been able to transcend the so called boundaries of homeland? In other words the study is an attempt to analyse the entire gamut of issues involving Inkatha in anti-apartheid struggles of country. This way it is a comprehensive as well as micro-level research focusing on the role in anti-apartheid struggles.

The period of the study coincides with the formation of Inkatha in 1975.
and the successful conclusion of the years of anti-apartheid struggles in 1994 when the Government of National Unity (a non-racial) one assumed office.

The present study is both descriptive and analytical in nature. Various issues involving anti-apartheid struggles have been analysed by resorting to all the available primary and second literature on the topic. Interviews of Inkatha leaders, party workers, common people and scholars on the area have been particularly useful in this respect. Many government documents, yearly presidential addresses of Inkatha, other party resolutions, reports, policy documents, etc have been thoroughly analysed to avoid the pitfalls of secondary literature.

The study has been divided under five chapters. Chapter one gives a background to the study. It makes a country study of South Africa, a note on apartheid, homeland system and the origin and development of Inkatha. Chapter two discusses the role of Inkatha since its inception till its formal break up with the ANC. Analyses have been done in the context of the rise of Black consciousness movement, Soweto revolt and other political developments. Chapter three focuses on Inkatha’s role in the period of rising political conflicts and the state’s efforts to bring reforms in the polity. The tricameral legislature and the African Community Councils were introduced in this period. Fourth chapter analyses Inkatha in the period of growing crises for the apartheid state. State of Emergency to check growing township violence, impact of sanctions, weakening of ANC’s militant struggle due to changes in the Soviet Union and
other international pressure impelled the need for change in the system. Inkatha’s initiatives for reform, role in township violence and in anti-apartheid struggles have been discussed in detail. The fifth chapter deals with the developments in the post-1990 period. Inkatha’s positions on various negotiation and constitutional issues have been analysed.

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(ANIL KUMAR DAS)