PREFACE
The US and India are the two largest democracies in the world. They apparently respect each other's values, cultural factors and share the ideas, and healthy aspects of friendly relations. Over the period the relationship between these two countries had been strained for various reasons. Despite this both had attempted to establish friendly and cooperative relations. Since India's independence in 1947, except for trade and economic links, the political and military relations with US have remained at a low key. This situation has been mainly attributed to the persisting differences and misconception about each other. Over the past five decades the situation has not change for the better. However, despite the fact that the two countries wedded to the principles of democracy have not been able to develop cordial, warm and cooperative relations.

India's foreign policy was opposed by the US on key issues. For instance, India's policy of Non-alignment - the result of a long cultural history of an ancient civilization was not to the liking and interests of the US. During the hey day of the Non-aligned movement, the main thrust of the US was to counter communism, whereas India's concern was to struggle against colonialism and imperialism. Thus, differences arose in the realm of foreign policy, and there was a lack of rapport between leaders of the two countries.

The seeds of misunderstanding between the two countries which persisted through the era of the cold war and reached its culmination during the 1970s had its ups and downs. This study is an attempt to analyze the various facets of the US security Policy towards India during the period 1969-1988.

PURPOSE OF STUDY

This study is an important and relevant area of research especially due to the increasing linkages being developed between the US and India in the international arena. Further, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the policy of liberalization being pursued by India, a detailed study of the US policy towards South Asia in its historical perspective is useful and necessary.
PERIOD

The period selected for the study is the administration of Richard Nixon (1969-1974) to Ronald Reagan's administration (1981-1988). During this period (1969-1988), the US relations with India were strained periodically. Both Nixon and the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi pursued varied agenda of foreign policy tailored to their national interest. This in turn pitched them in adversarial positions.

The US involvement in South Asian affairs increased from the early 1970s, partly because of Pakistan's role in Sino-US rapprochement, the US support to Pakistan in its civil war of 1971, and the conclusion of the Indo-Soviet Treaty (1971). Thereafter on several important issues both countries differed with each other.

METHODOLOGY

This study is descriptive and analytical, and is based both on primary and secondary sources. It is based on all primary sources viz. United Nations documents, the US sources available in India and all relevant primary sources of India, besides all relevant secondary sources.

Chapterisation

The Study is divided into seven chapters.

1. A Background to the US Foreign Policy: In this chapter an attempt is made to highlight as to how the US changed its policy of isolationism to involvement. The factors which influenced the US in determining its foreign policy, both in theory and practice have also been dealt.

2. US and South Asia -Policy Approaches from the Perspective of Military Alliances: In this chapter an attempt is made to analyse the US policy in South Asia, particularly in its efforts to contain the expansion of communism and its impact on its relations with Pakistan and India as also its long term policy towards South Asia. The chapter also dealt with the views of the US Congress and the executives on South Asia.

3. US and India: Political and Military Issues: In this chapter an attempt has been made to examine the US policy towards India with reference to the political and military issues.
4. **US and the Politics of Militarisation of the Indian Ocean**: In this chapter an attempt has been made to assess the following factors: the continuing US interest in maintaining Diego Garcia under its control; its opposition to recognise the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and its attempt to legitimise the US presence in the region.

5. **The Regional States Response to US Militarisation of the Indian Ocean**: In this chapter an attempt has been made to examine the different perceptions of the littoral States towards the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and how US presence in the Indian Ocean is a threat to India's security.

6. **The Politics of US Military Assistance to Pakistan: India's Response**: An attempt has been made, in this chapter, to examine politics of the US military assistance to Pakistan and its consequence on India.

7. **US and India: The Politics of the Nuclear issue**: In this chapter an attempt has been made to examine the US nuclear policy towards India, and India's response towards this US stance during the period under study.

**Summary and conclusion.**