PREFACE
The contemporary political systems of Eastern Europe have experienced rapid and traumatic social change. Forged in the two World Wars of the Twentieth Century they are now ruled by elites who have inherited the institutions which undermined local traditions and implemented sweeping social and political changes. However, looking back four decades, one finds great changes that have occurred in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. They are reversible. The historical, cultural, and ideological influences which have combined to shape contemporary Soviet views of Yugoslavia, are important to consider not only because for centuries of the Soviet Union, a large and militarily powerful country, has had a love-hate relationship with the region but also since the time of Lenin its leaders have espoused an ideology which takes the historical process extremely seriously. Even with the ascendancy of Mikhail Gorbachev, elements of this forward-looking vision remained central to the establishment of a communist society.

Therefore, Soviet relations particularly, with Yugoslavia and Eastern Europe in general, occupied the attention of Soviet top leadership since the World War II. This interest was escalated markedly in the post-Stalin period, stimulated by striking changes that took place within the region. Thus, the Soviet foreign policy in the aftermath of the Second World War primarily focused on Eastern Europe which was known as the ‘Socialist Bloc.’ The second priority area was the capitalist West and thirdly, the Third world developing countries. Relations with Yugoslavia assumed
importance, because it did not come in the above category. Nevertheless, Yugoslavia established itself as an independent state in Europe opening on the Adriatic Sea. The independence of Yugoslavia was prudent to follow a path that suits their domestic situation within the framework of socialism. However, the path adopted by Yugoslavia often criticised by the Soviet Union as deviating from the Soviet model of socialism based on the idea of Marx and Lenin.

Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had never reconciled with the independent path of Yugoslavia, although he failed to impose his leadership over Yugoslavia. Once he had said that 'I will shake my little finger, Tito will fall." However, Marshal Tito and Yugoslavia survived Stalin's highhandedness and virtually there were military intervention by the Soviet Union to dismember the integrity of Yugoslavia.

Nikitia Khrushchev made serious attempts to normalise the relations. Despite ideological differences, the Soviet-Yugoslav relations entered into a friendly level during the period of Khrushchev. It is against this background that the present research work is being focussed on Soviet policy towards Yugoslavia, conditioned by a number of reasons, pretty much influenced by the developments in the region (Eastern Europe). The study has sought to examine the nature of Soviet-Yugoslav relations in the bilateral contexts. An evaluation of the socialist paradigm in Soviet Union and Yugoslavia has been made at length. The study also has focused the
impact of external forces on the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia vis-à-vis their relationship. Finally, attempts have been made to make a comparative study of the Soviet-Yugoslav perception of ideology and the international communist movement.

The periods of time that have been considered one, for the most part, the Brezhnev era up to early 1980 and the reign of Gorbachev. The thesis consists of five chapters with a concluding chapter.

Chapter I addresses long-term Soviet interests in Yugoslavia and examines the historical, cultural, and ideological factors that shaped the basic Soviet conception of the region. This chapter also analyzes the Soviet Union's geo-political and military stake in Eastern Europe. It is against this background that the nature of the Soviet-Yugoslav relations has been examined beginning from the end of Second World War upto 1964.

Chapter II discusses the influence of Yugoslavia and the region in general on Soviet foreign policy-making during the Brezhnev era. Attempts have been made to include the major regional developments that have taken place during this period and the evolution of ideology as a determining factor in relations between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Chapter III analyses the fundamental changes in the domestic and international relations pioneered by Gorbachev. The principle of 'new political thinking' leading to democratisation and sweeping reform forms the
core of the discussion. While at the same time, the international political situation and its repercussion on the Soviet Union has been dealt with in order to understand Gorbachev's idea of forward looking in relations with Yugoslavia.

Chapter IV addresses the prospects of the Soviet Union moving beyond the use or threat of force in relations with Yugoslavia and the mutually beneficial economic trade deliveries.

Ideology as a weapon to promote socialist internationalism and facilitate unity among the communist states is the subject of Chapter V.

Chapter VI is the conclusion.