An attempt has been made in this dissertation to examine the policy of the United States towards refugees with reference to the Hungarian refugees many of whom desired to go to the United States after the abortive uprising in 1956. This was a crucial period in the evolution of American foreign policy. On the one hand, the US propaganda apparatus had spread the message of US interest in "liberating" the "captive" nations while on the other, serious consideration was also being given to the possibility of an "accommodation" with the Soviet Union that would avert the threat of a nuclear war and enable the United States to retain its military and economic pre-eminence in the world community. The rhetoric gave rise to hopes among certain elements in the Communist countries that assistance would be forthcoming from the United States if they were to make an effort to liberate themselves from Moscow's control. The present dissertation tries to examine various factors that came to play when the revolt broke out in Hungary and when the United States was faced with the problem of dealing with the refugees after Soviet intervention.

The attitude of the United States towards the refugees has been viewed in the context of several relevant factors. Among these are the evolving US policy towards the Soviet Union and the anti-Communist, anti-Soviet rhetoric of the US propaganda agencies as well as their professions of concern for the liberation of peoples struggling against "Communist tyranny". Further, the factors the US Government had to reckon with in evolving its
policy towards the refugees have been examined. Since the admission of refugees in the United States would have to be on the basis of their status as immigrants the evolution of American attitude towards immigration has been briefly discussed and the expedience of the Truman Administration in persuading Congress to enact emergency legislation to provide for the admission of displaced persons has been described. The arguments put forth by those in favour of liberalized immigration and restrictive admission of aliens are presented and the strength of the latter sentiment in the Congress is brought out by a discussion of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 sponsored by the confirmed restrictionists Senator Pat McCarran and Congressman Francis E. Walter. Having to evolve its policy towards Hungarian refugees in this context is shown. And a detailed analysis is attempted of how the policy came to be adopted, the motivation of the American policy-makers, and how the policy was implemented.

This study has been taken up with the awareness that important research material for this period will not be made available to researchers for a long time. However, the sources available have been fairly well covered. I was fortunate to be able to consult the private papers of Tracy S. Voorhees, Chairman of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief. The relevant material in Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Abilene and Harry S. Truman Library, Independence and other materials in Columbia University Library and the Library of Congress have been consulted. This study could have profited very much had the
private papers of Senator McCarran and Congressman Walter been accessible. However, I have tried to do justice to their views by carefully examining other material available on the subject and on their role in shaping the immigration policy.

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