Compared to Vietnam, writings on Laos are few and far between. In India, hardly any academic study has been undertaken on the struggle in Laos. Its linkage with the Vietnamese conflict, geopolitical location, and rivalry of outside powers, give Laos a special significance. Perhaps no other country in the world has been subjected to so much of outside interference as the tiny kingdom of Laos. This study makes an attempt to look into the problems of Laos as affected by external intervention during 1954-1973.

The study has been facilitated, to an extent, by my earlier dissertation on the "Pathet Lao Movement" done under the supervision of Dr. Parimal Kumar Das, Associate Professor, Southeast Asian Studies, at the School of International Studies, JNU. The present thesis is the outcome of investigation into various official sources, works by the participants, interviews, discussions, and survey of relevant books and articles. This was done in India, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. In the interviews and discussions that were conducted, in some places the source has not been acknowledged in deference to the wishes of the persons concerned. Again, the information thus obtained, is mentioned, only when verified by other evidences. The term 'Pathet Lao' is used in a generic
sense to denote the left oriented movement in Laos and includes its political organ, army, and other associations.

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