The role of the Communist Party of India (CPI) in India's freedom struggle during 1937-1947 happens to be one of the most controversial issues of freedom movement. A lot of confusion prevails as to the role of the CPI in India's struggle for freedom. But access to archival materials and private papers of some leading nationalist leaders has opened new dimensions to the study of the role of different political parties objectively. It is quite difficult to come to definite conclusions on such a controversial and tricky issue like the role of the CPI in our freedom movement. Anyway, in this thesis I have tried my best to use almost all important available archival data and thus present, as far as possible, an objective evaluation of the role of the CPI in our freedom movement.

In the first chapter of the thesis I have briefly discussed the theoretical and historical background of the emergence of communist movement in India. In chapter two I have discussed the role of the CPI during the period 1937-1939. In this period the CPI followed the policy of the united front, i.e., it adopted a policy of cooperation with other nationalist parties. In chapter three I have analysed the role of the CPI in the first phase of the Second World War, i.e., during 1939-1941. In the fourth chapter I have tried to analyse the role of the CPI in the second phase of the War (1942-1945) when the CPI characterised the War as 'People's War'. In chapter five I have discussed the policies adopted by the CPI on different social movements, Pakistan demand of the Muslim League and, of course, its assessment of the nature of
Indian independence. In the concluding chapter I have tried to provide an objective evaluation of the role of the CPI during the period 1937-1947.

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