Preface

The Nation State, which was the basic element of the international order since the seventeenth century, has fallen into decline in the post-War period. Across the world, Nation States were either disintegrating or organising themselves into larger Communities, which increasingly started taking over crucial functions hitherto under the exclusive domain of the Nation State. In Western Europe, Nation States adopted the Community Building approach, wherein they surrendered sovereignty in certain policy areas to supranational institutions with the hope that it would foster cooperation and peace, ultimately leading to a union among the people of Europe.

The European Community was started as an endeavour to establish free trade between Member States and to progressively establish a broadly synchronized economic system. Now it encompasses political, economic, monetary and social functions. As Nation States surrender more and more sovereignty to Community institutions does it signify the end of the Nation State?

The history of Europe reveals that the idea of a unified Europe was constantly undermined by the need of the Nation State to ensure its separate development and existence. In the light of this background, the present study attempts to examine if there is a tussle between Community spirit and national interest within the Community framework. The study has taken five policy areas – free movement of goods, common agricultural policy, common foreign policy, monetary union and social policy – to examine how much of Community spirit and national interest has prevailed in the European Community since the signing of the Treaty of Rome up to the signing of the Maastricht Treaty.
That this work could be completed at all is due to the infinite forbearance, immense faith, strict discipline and constant encouragement of my Supervisor, Prof. Vivekanandan. Prof. Vivekanandan has painstakingly gone through every written word, offered suggestions, and had discussions at every stage. Along with Prof. Vivekanandan, Mrs. Vivekanandan, Nimmi, Benny, and Jayashree have been a big support.

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This has been a sincere attempt on my part. Needless to say, any shortcomings or mistakes are entirely mine.

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Susan Mathai