Preface

The purpose of this study is to understand the problems faced by The Central Asian and South Asian Countries during their liberalization, and regional economic integration process. This thesis analyses and compares the regional economic integration in Central Asia and South Asia. The first Chapter broadly covers the global trends towards increasing regional economic integration. It mainly covers the theoretical aspects of the regional economic integration and will try to summarise the debate whether regional trade agreements are stumbling blocks or building blocks of global trade liberalisation. The Second Chapter covers the economic liberalisation policies of the Central Asian and South Asian regions. Broadly this presents cross-country analysis of economic policy regimes in both the regions in the last fifteen years. Specifically this chapter analyses the trade policies in both the regions. In the third Chapter this study describes and analyses all the regional/ bilateral and multilateral attempts towards regional integration in the Central Asian republics since 1992. It shows the significance, challenges and opportunities in regional economic co-operation in the Central Asian region. Fourth Chapter describes and analyses all the regional/ bilateral and multilateral attempts towards regional integration in the South Asian region particularly since the early 1980's. It shows the significance, challenges and opportunities in regional economic co-operation in the South Asian region. In the fifth Chapter, this study compares objectives, significance, progress and obstacles in the process of regional economic integration of both Central and South Asian regions. The Sixth Chapter deals with the possibilities/obstacles of the expansion of South Asian economic co-operation to the Central Asian region. Importance of other countries like Iran and Afghanistan might also be discussed in this context. In Conclusions, major findings of the proposed research work are summarized. I wanted to acknowledge many persons who helped me while doing this study.

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