The Arab world witnessed constant changes in international affairs since the end of the second world war. As the United States pursued its broad parameters in world affairs, its commitment to the West Asian region remained uppermost in view of the region’s oil reserves and a fluid situation prevailing there.

The Arab League which came into existence in 1945 had been a positive response of the Arab people for their common objectives towards the solution of the Arab problem. The Arab League had been a kind of amalgamation of Arab aspirations as well as their desire to coordinate mutuality of interest. The US on its part had pursued the policy which had been somewhat favourable to the state of Israel as against the interest of the Arab countries.

A strong Pan-Arab movement, however, emerged in West Asia as the world attained bipolarity in its diplomatic stances. The East and the West showed no signs of reconciliation with each other. The cold war phenomenon brought about an intense rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. The sphere of influence were identified, their strategic and economic importance were evaluated and assessed. The Middle East was no exception to this rule.

In attempting to promote modernization in the Middle
East, while preventing any expansion of Soviet influence, the US strategists pursued national interests and finite power to protect them. Ever since the Arab League was formed, these options included (i) the Truman Doctrine, (ii) Eisenhower Dulles policy of promoting regional security treaties, (iii) John F. Kennedy’s push for economic and political reforms, (iv) The Nixon-Kissinger reliance on regional powers, (v) Jimmy-Carter’s promise of human rights and Ronald Reagan’s reliance on the threat of force to stabilize the Middle East.

The President entered office naming Israel as "a major strategic asset to America". Aid to Israel was not a case of charity but an investment in US security. Reagan had expressed his belief that Israel’s West Bank and Gaza settlements are legal. He has been flatly opposed to an independent Palestinian state, and he consistently objected to including the PLO in any peace negotiation, calling them a terrorist organization. His attitude toward the Camp David peace process had been lukewarm, and while he seemed to have favoured a Jordanian solution to the Palestine problem, his overall view was to oppose an active US rule in the peace process.

The Reagan Administration took office with the hope that it could downgrade the Arab-Israeli conflict, put aside the Palestinian problem, and focus instead on its own Middle East agenda. Several significant events propelled Reagan Administration’s re-evaluation in US-West Asia policy. The US did respond in each instance since it judged that the US...
interests would be negative affected by heightened conflict in the region. One of the most important developments in foreign policy opinion in the Reagan era had been the emergence of the neo-conservative movement led by individuals like Jene Kirkpatrick, Norman Podhoretz and Martin Peretz, whose militant anti Soviet orientation was matched by their enthusiasm for the Israeli doctrine. There were several Arab-American and Palestinian lobbying groups, and they grew considerably over the past decade. The study is mainly based on the examination and interpretation of available relevant official documents and pronouncements of the governments of the US - Arab League states. The method followed in this thesis is descriptive and analytical. This thesis consists of five chapters and a conclusion.

The present thesis is a modest attempt to examine the US policy towards the Arab League. The first chapter deals with the historical overview of the determinants of the US foreign policy objectives in the context of the Arab League. In this chapter, the role of the US interests has been examined. Further, a brief survey of factors that led to the formation of the Arab League has been done.

The second chapter is an attempt towards the Reagan Administration's foreign policy thrust and a profound impact on his foreign policy decisions. The major focus of his foreign policy was Soviet Union. It was considered as a great source of international insecurity at that time.
The third chapter bears an index of the Reagan Administration’s interaction with the West Asia and Arab League to find out the reasons for the total denial of the Arab-Israeli dispute during Reagan’s first term.

The fourth chapter has analysed President Reagan’s peace process towards the Arab League. And Arab-Israeli reactions to his peace plans in the Middle East were discussed.

The fifth chapter deals with the Arab League Dimension’s strategic military development with US and its ally relationship in the Middle East region. Special reference to the PLO, Jordan, Syria and Arab Summits were also discussed in this chapter.

The conclusion of this thesis reflects on the fact that American national interest did not afford the US greater room for maneuverability in the conduct of its foreign policy towards the Arab League. And it also shows that Middle East has been a factor in the US policy toward the West Asia as it served the basic American national interests.