CHAPTER VII
CONCLUSION

This study is an attempt to document and evaluate the historical contributions made by Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan to the development of Mysore kingdom through the cultivation of fruitful relations between South India and the Persian Gulf. But, during the course of the study, it is observed that there are many areas which require serious and incisive study. Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan were multi-faceted personalities and rendered multifarious services to South India. Each and every aspect of their great personalities and historical contributions can also be studied exclusively.

The present study is more significant because of its unique geopolitical element. No ruler, Indian or West Asian understood and appreciated in right earnest, the significance of South India and the Persian Gulf better than Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. This thesis presented an analytical narrative of the factors and forces which facilitated the relations between the Persian Gulf and South India in the Eighteenth Century under the rule of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan, on the basis of a wide range of primary and secondary sources. The Portuguese, the Dutch, the French and the English were the major external forces which dominated third World countries during the fifteenth to twentieth centuries. Haider Ali’s political initiatives chiefly paved the way for the establishment of an economically beneficial relationship between South India and the Persian Gulf. The adventure, diplomacy and futuristic planning of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan were crucial factors from the point of view of political stability and overall development of South India. The summary of the study and inferences of the study are presented in this concluding chapter.
India and the Arab world share a unique social and economic relationship since times immemorial. During the fifteenth and eighteenth Centuries, the Portuguese, the French and the British began to use steam ships with a motive of colonial expansion. The Arabs lost the ground and trade was captured by the European powers in the eighteenth century. The relation between the Persian Gulf and South India underwent a through change during the reign of the Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in eighteenth century, in the form of trade and commerce. They cultivated a political and economical strategic relationship between the two regions.

The history of South India has a special significance, since South India is a part of India geographically and otherwise. The Persian Gulf was subjected to various foreign settlements such as the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Danish, the French and the English. Ottoman Empire in Arabia and Safavid Empire in Persia ruled the roost in the Persian Gulf. The local Arab tribes revolted against the Ottoman and Safavid Empire and established their own principalities in and around the Persian Gulf. The absence of a powerful central administration and unity among the local Arab tribes was mainly responsible for the entry of European colonial powers into the Persian Gulf.

The Persian Gulf was used to be the trade route between Iraq, Persia and India, and the ships which were voyaged in the Gulf carried very rich cargoes. Throughout Asia, the economies of the agrarian empires had been fuelled in the seventeenth century by the influx of spice gained from New World conquest, as Europeans sought valued spice and other commodities. In India seaborne trade, was largely in the hands of Arabs from the beginning of the sixteenth century the new
economic circumstances in the western seas of the Indian Ocean opened the way for the Europeans.

The Franco-British warfare (1757-1763) actually gave the Europeans a new confidence in the superiority of their armed forces in Indian conditions. In the first half of the eighteenth century, sea trade was brisk in South India and the Persian Gulf. The period of 1750-1850 could be rightly viewed as the period which incorporated the economy of several countries into the world-economy. The trading operations of the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French and the English companies dislocated and disrupted the indigenous economies. Inspite of these hurdles Arab trade achieved considerable progress during the reigns of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan.

Eminent historians have expressed the view that Haider Ali laid a strong political and economic foundation for the State of Mysore in particular and South India in general. Haider was neither a diplomat nor an economist of any reputation; he valiantly expanded the State of Mysore and mobilized enormous economic resources. But, Tipu Sultan had the ability to lead his kingdom in a modernizing way both politically and economically. This inference is drawn on the basis of the economic policy and reforms carried out by Tipu Sultan who was a great visionary and missionary with grandiloquent vision of free India.

Haider Ali launched a programme of conquest and annexation after ascending the throne of Mysore since he had strong political and economic considerations while conquering the Southern States. He offered hegemony to the whole of the South. His plan was to obtain political control over all the Southern States and to develop them into a military alliance against the British. He wanted to maintain the status
quo in India. He firmly believed in the motto: *India for Indians* because of his untimely death his ambition was not fulfilled. The last decade of the eighteenth century in South India witnessed a historical conflict of interests between European colonialism and Indian patriotism. The real challenge to British imperialism came after the 1780s, when Tipu Sultan put forth determined efforts to safeguard Indian sovereignty. Tipu’s Mysore was surrounded by British territory and was unable to secure support from the revolutionary France or from Afghanistan. For the British, Tipu was the model of an oriental despot, they wanted to eliminate Tipu as early as possible and conquer his kingdom. Tipu Sultan was an embodiment of Indian resistance to the colonial conquest, his defeat was absolutely necessary for the realisation of their expansion-political and economic, in India. Lord Wellesley designed a strategy to sever all the links of Tipu internally and externally. In particular, Wellesley felt that it was utmost necessary to keep the Marathas and the Nizam away from Tipu. After the death of Tipu, the fourth and final battle of Mysore came to an ominous end. General Harris publicly declared that the British had conquered the whole of South India after the death of Tipu by which an illustrious chapter in the struggle against colonial expansion.

Tipu had rightly analysed the reasons for the political decline of the Muslim world. The most important thing their indifference to trade, commerce and industry. Tipu was fully aware of the significance of the Gulf region which remained the hub of global economic activity linking the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. Tipu’s diplomatic missions had commercial objectives ultimately. Tipu Sultan formulated several regulations on trade and economic administration of his state in order to safeguard the political and economic sovereignty of
his state. The most innovative scheme initiated by Tipu Sultan was public investment which was unique in the sense that the returns were paid in inverse ratio. The amount invested by the general public in the scheme was reinvested by the government in government trade. The state also included the people actively in the process of nation-building. The changes introduced by Haider and Tipu Sultan were by and large supported by the peasants’ craftsmen and traders; those were not connected with the British trade interests. But these social groups were politically too weak. In the high strata of the society the situation was different. Abolition of Jagirs and feudal privileges of the Palegars made a majority of the Mysore feudal chiefs hostile to Haider Ali and his heir.

The feudal vassals of Mysore who had hated the idea of becoming salaried officers of the absolutist state openly cooperated with the British especially when the latter accumulated more strength. The reforms had no support from the ruling classes of Mysore. The nobles belonged to different communities, ethnicities and parts of Asia; some of them never looked upon Mysore as their motherland and were more loyal to their caste, creed or hereditary privileges than to the kingdom. Tipu failed in his diplomatic mission with the French who did not respond to his military and other demands. Haider Ali and Tipu fought against the Palegars as part of their conquests and strongly resisted European colonialism. They were formidable adversaries who inflicted a severe defeat on the British and came close to breaking the base of the East India Company in South India. 4th of May 1799 was considered by the British rulers as the day on which an indomitable opponent of theirs was at last eliminated. However, the day was also looked at with sadness by all patriots who vehemently supported the
fight against European colonialism. Tipu Sultan was very eager to develop a diplomatic relationship with many foreign powers those in Persian Gulf in particular and appointed several diplomatic missions in order to accomplish this goal. Tipu Sultan was a born soldier. He had to withstand the onslaught of all his neighbours in general and the British in particular. Tipu could not achieve success he desired from the point of view of diplomacy due to several constraints. The achievements of Tipu Sultan in foreign relations brought name and fame from abroad especially from the Gulf region and ended his isolation. This threw his enemies into confusion.

Tipu Sultan’s regime facilitated the state’s monopoly of trade which ultimately made his state highly prosperous. Several historians have rightly opined that Tipu Sultan’s concept of political economy was similar to the contemporary European thought. Tipu applied himself to governmental tasks with the same commitment as Haider. Tipu tried to enlist the support of France, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan in order to form a formidable front against the English since he viewed the expansion of the British in the East as a threat to Indian sovereignty in general and economic wellbeing of whole country in particular.

Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan occupy an honoured place in Indian history for their valiant fight against British colonialism. Tipu did his best to enter into a political and military treaty with the internal and external rulers during the last quarter of the eighteenth century in order to contain the growth and development of British imperialism and capitalism in India. It is easy to understand that whatever mighty and great the British power in India might have been, it was always in danger and remained much weaker than the allied forces of the Marathas, Nizam and Tipu Sultan. Unfortunately, this alliance was not
possible in spite of Tipu’s passionate attempt to achieve it. The models of state development, the very global outlook and development plans of the late eighteenth century South India states were so dissimilar and came in the way of acting jointly. As a result Mysore’s attempt for deeper reforms was suppressed not only by the Capitalist Britain, but also by recalcitrant feudal India. Mysore was an unwanted outsider either for the Nizam, and the Marathas, who just wanted to enrich themselves at the expense of the strong neighbour, or for the famine stricken Bengali peasants who joined the British army to escape starvation and stormed Srirangapatna under the banner of the British East India Company.

It is proved beyond all doubt that Haider Ali laid a strong political and economic foundation for the kingdom of Mysore while Tipu Sultan led his kingdom on a modernizing path politically and economically by developing fruitful diplomatic and economic relations between South India and the Persian Gulf. These inferences are drawn on the basis of an extensive review of literature on the political diplomacy, military initiatives, trade relations and economic reforms carried out by Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. The abundant historical provide credible details and sound evidence on the historical contributions of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan for the development of economic bonds between South India and the Persian Gulf.

Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan were the greatest strategists the world has ever seen. They were great fighters who created a vast kingdom and checked the advance of the outsider. The very life of these two sons of the soil can be seen as great warriors battled against the evil forces and a life dedicated for building a strong kingdom. The history of South India abounds by the thrilling story of Haider Ali
Khan and his son Tipu Sultan. But this does not mean that they had a smooth passage in all their efforts they have undertaken. Their advances and adventures received all round opposition. They faced great challenges and formidable opposition from all sides. They were surrounded by enemies from every direction. This did not damp their spirit and their intentions to carry forward. Haider who came from a humble origin had an ambition. He was a shrewd observer and a successful strategist. He achieved great victories with minimum forces and limited resources. But Tipu was in a better position than his father; he had greater exposures and a better academic background. He was bubbling with scintillating ideas. He was a born reformer who was always trying to bring great changes. His reformist zeal made him a successful administrator. Tipu Sultan was determined to push through his economic, social and political reforms. The most outstanding principles that attracted his attention were mercantilism, state socialism. In order to push his reforms Tipu Sultan wanted to have a wider canvas. His scheme of political and social reforms also required a great military system. But his adventures and advances naturally created apprehension among his neighbours and adversaries. But there was a great difference between Tipu Sultan and his detractors. His adversaries were squirming with narrow feelings, ignoble and selfish proposals. Tipu was concentrating on some noble and adventurous schemes. He was an innovative ruler who did not confine his activities to the narrow limits of the Mysore kingdom which contained ten modern districts. Tipu was determined to look beyond the borders of Mysore, nay beyond the border of Indian subcontinent.

Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan were the first rulers of India who thought in terms of geo-political principles. They considered for the
first time geo-political aspects and features of several areas. Both of them faced great pressure in their corner. There advance was checked at every step by their adversaries while Haider had many limitations political and economic to conduct military operations. Tipu had too many things to tackle. His ambition and aggressive desire invited trouble from every corner. It is under these circumstances they began to examine the importance of geo-political elements in their areas of their operations.

Historians have failed to notice the significance attached by Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan to the geo-political factors throughout their regions, particularly Haider’s contribution in this field has not been properly appreciated. It is true that Haider did not evolve a highly sophisticated state system. From the beginning circumstances forced him to review and revise his policies, Haider had to safeguard the borders of the kingdom of Mysore but, when he entered into a carrier of annexation and advancement he came into contact with the significance of geographical and geo-political elements. It is the conquest of Bedanur in 1763 that provided him with the first opportunity to witness the significance of the geo-political and economic factors. This study highlights the problems and challenges that the geo-politics of Southern India has always thrown against the adventurous and ambitious men of affairs. Haider who conquered this vast part of Vijayanagara kingdom came into the possession of the vast treasury of the Bedanore chiefs. How did this king acquire such enormous property? Haider wanted to find out the secret of the enormous wealth of the Bedanur ruler? He found out that, it is their external trade which enriched this kingdom and gave it an added economic advantage. But when he met Arab merchants in Bedanur, a
great surprise was waiting for him their accounts of the outside world particularly Arab countries awakened him to the enormous economic opportunities.

Haider came to the conclusion that the geographical and geopolitical elements play a significant role in forming a powerful kingdom, so he should take full advantage of these factors. The conquest of Bedanur took him to the western sea coast, which was a centre of intense commercial activity. But the presence of large number of Europeans disturbed Haider; he began to ponder about the great drain of wealth through these Europeans traders. He understood that the sea coast played a valuable part in determining the growth of the country. This included not only the prosperous green Malnad area of Bedanur, but the adjoining Malabar also. Haider at that time came to know the true face of colonial exploitation in Malabar. The British and the French who had tasted the significance of spice trade in this area had entrenched themselves throughout the western coast. It was very obvious, the strength of the European lay in the flourishing foreign trade they had with India particularly the western coast.

Haider who undertook a number of campaigns had maintained a good standing army. But he had to face more powerful adversaries as he advanced towards the west coast. The indomitable power of the Marathas, tough people of Kodagu and rebellious Nairs posed serious threats to Haider. Haider’s sovereignty over this region however extremely limited. The Feudal Mysore Kingdom drew its revenue mostly from land revenue and other taxes. But Haider’s grandiose plans required enormous amounts. Haider did no fail to notice the lesson from his foreign rival’s great potential of overseas trade stood before him as overseas trade.
By this time he had gathered sufficient information about the political economic conditions prevailing in the neighbouring regions of India, Particularly the Perso-Arabian Gulf region. The Ottoman Empire which had its hegemony over the Middle East had shrunk both in size and its strength. The Safavid rulers had also lost their vigour and vision in the administration of that area. On the other hand Arabs had exhibited stiff opposition to the European colonial adventurers. They had enjoyed continuous trade relations with South India and resisted the European taking over the prosperous Indian trade. This was a right opportunity to befriend with Arabs and to establish relationship with the rulers of this areas; it was convenient for Haider to deal with the chieftains and rulers of the Gulf instead of inaccessible Caliph or King of Persia. Hence he decided to jump into this area and establish political and economic contacts. He first sent his embassies to Karim Khan the ruler of Persia who like Haider Ali had seized the Persian thrown. After a brief political intercourse Haider Ali realised that The Sultan of Oman would be a more useful ally from the point of view of his economic relationship. This contact with the Gulf paved the way for more intimate relationship with Mysore and the Gulf region, he was moving slowly in that direction but, Haider was more seriously engaged in the local skirmishes with the Marathas and his traditional enemy the English. Before he could utilise the Gulf region Haider died in 1782 leaving the rest of the work to his illustrious son Tipu Sultan.

One of the prominent achievements of Haider Ali was the establishment of the Mysore mission at Bandar Abbas with the permission of Karim Khan, the ruler of Persia. This was known for its international trade. Though Haider was not any Gulf countries witnessed or any foreign locality, he understood the political and
economic benefit which the Mysore kingdom can acquire with the possession of centre at Bandar Abbas. This was a clear indication of Haider’s clear awareness of the geo-political significance of the Gulf region and his belief that the mission at this place would be beneficial commercially and politically. Haider took up with the Gulf region. He enforced strict security in the coastal region of Mangalore and Karwar. He had heard many complaints about piracy in Malabar as well as Mangalore. The first important step taken by Haider is to eliminate piracy in the entire coastal region thus he paved the way for a new era of political and commercial relationship between South India and the Persian Gulf.

After the death of Haider, Tipu Sultan had succeeded his father. He was forced by circumstances and to need to defend his possession and patrimony decided to de throne the Mysore maharaja and proclaimed himself as an independent ruler. Tipu was in many ways better position to his father. He was educated and equipped himself with the knowledge of current affairs as well as the background knowledge of concerned persons, countries and important developments. He understood the underlying principles of Haider’s policy and tried to implement some of his ambitious programmes. While Haider’s policy was determined by some of the stark realities of his position. Tipu enjoyed greater power and position and was free to take up any programme. The most significant and central theme which Tipu continued in his administration was close contact with the Gulf region and west coast of India. Tipu took up vigorously many programmes to implement his policy along with the desire to establish his position in strategic area. Tipu Sultan’s strong desire to extend his trade contacts compelled him to commercial stations in the Persian
Gulf. He took a proposal to send embassies to important kingdoms and commercial centres in the Gulf region.

As an extension of State capitalism and cameralism Tipu sultan tried to open new trade centres not only in several parts of his kingdom and in different states of India but also in some of the important trade centres in west Asia. He concentrated on some of the most powerful commercial cities in the Gulf. Ostensibly his proposal was to have a trade centres in this region, and to have trade and commercial exchange where Tipu would be buying some of the commodities from the Gulf, and at the same time arrange for the sale of goods from his kingdom. The Prominent centres he chose were Jeddah, Muscat, Oman and Cutch.

Tipu sultan had several intensions in the establishments of these commercial centres; he had great political ambition and tried to make use of these centres for the extension of his programmes. The establishment of the commercial centre at Jeddah is an excellent example for the multiple proposals of Tipu Sultan. This was the most sacred place for the Muslims, millions of Muslim pilgrims visiting this place from all part of the world. Tipu Sultan wanted to make use of this to campaign against the evil desires of the Europeans particularly the British in Asia. He wanted to awaken the gullible and complacent Asian from deep slumber.

After his failure to acquire the friendship of Marathas and Nizam of Hyderabad Tipu had to seek allies from elsewhere. Therefore it was necessary to approach powerful countries for assistance and alliance. Tipu therefore tried to cement strong relationship with the rulers of the Persian Gulf.
The Persian Gulf itself had undergone many significant changes in the eighteenth century. The Ottoman Empire had become too weak to assert its authority on many parts of its empire. Many new sheikdoms had emerged in this region during the eighteenth century. Some of these new kingdoms and sheikdoms were the products of the eighteenth century and hence were not bound by the shekels of the past. Their legitimacy, polices were not dictated by the age old traditions of ritual and hegemony. They were fully aware of the economic and political developments that had been determining international relations in the eighteenth century. Tipu Sultan obviously wanted to take full advantage of this situation and developed a strong diplomatic relationship with these sheikhdoms.

But Tipu Sultan was involved in numerous conflicts and confrontations, his adversaries had the advantage of observing his moves and prepare them to counter the Sultan. The British in particular watched with great concerned, every activity of Tipu Sultan. They had a long experience of diplomacy and had already contacted some of the emerging states in the Persian Gulf. Oman was politically one of the most significant Sheikdoms in this area. Tipu consider it as a most potential centre for his commercial and diplomatic programmes. But the British were one step ahead of him they had entered the Gulf area at least half a century before Tipu Sultan. While commercial enterprise was not sole activity for Tipu Sultan, for the British it was their living, therefore they took proper care to strengthen their political relationship with all the countries in the Gulf. The British considered that a hold on Oman was essential for maintaining their commercial supremacy in Asia. They had even neutralized the attempt made by some French adventures to establish contact with Oman. Hence the
British promptly reacted to the overtures of Tipu Sultan and moved fast to keep him away from this strategic centre. They forced Saiyid Sultan Bin Ahmad of Oman to enter into a bilateral Treaty with them in the year 1798. This was a very crucial blow to Tipu Sultan. Similarly in Jeddah the Sheikh decided to remove all foreign merchants who were operating from that place. As a result a large number of Indian businessmen who had settled there several centuries ago had to leave Jeddah closing their age old commercial transactions. Tipu however tried to re-establish contact with important centres of the Arab world. He sent his ambassadors and merchants with huge amount of money and costly gifts to renew trade activates in Jeddah. Tipu also had an intention of using Jeddah as an important base to establish contact with other important centres of Islamic empire. He was particularly interested in establishing contact with Cairo for political and commercial reasons, but things moved too fast. Developments in Europe and Asia came in the way of Tipu Sulat’s ambitious programme. Napoleon who had demonstrated the strategic importance of Egypt had gone and could not consolidate his military gains in Egypt. Tipu also was convinced that Cairo was one of the most strategic key centres in the world it could be a determining factor in a war against the British. But, Tipu’s plan remained in an embryonic State and could not be implemented due to several unprecedented political developments in Europe and Asia.

A study of Tipu Sultan’s policy is a lesson in sophisticated diplomacy. Every move he made was meticulously planned and punctually executed both in his internal policy and foreign policy Tipu exhibited a remarkable foresight. Both of them affected each other.
While his foreign policy aimed at strengthening his state finance his internal policy was moulded to appeal to his allies.

Critics of Tipu characterise his foreign policy as unrealistic and too ambitious. The most condemned aspect of his external policy was his relation with the gulf. This is an oversimplification. It is true everything did not go as expected in the gulf. It was both due to the explosive situation and the success achieved by the British in neutralising Tipu’s efforts to build bridges in the gulf. The real value of any plan or proposal is not always measured by its success and failure. The motive behind a plan is also taken into consideration in evaluating it.

Tipu’s gulf policy was a scintillating proposal a well thought program which aimed at mutual benefit. India and Tipu would have certainly derived great benefit if it had worked as planned by Tipu Sultan. The proposal to have diplomatic contact with the Persia and the Arab countries was a crowning plan in Tipu’s career. But the plan needed reciprocity of a very high order.

It is certainly a tribute to the genius of Tipu Sultan that he had initiated a marked shift from politics to economics in international relations, centuries before major powers realised its relevance and pursued the same with vigour. Tipu’s ideals of bilateral and multilateral treaties were pioneering proposals, worthy of following by the future policy makers of any state including India. But one startling weakness of Tipu’s policy was prone to be influenced as affected by the big power policies at that time.

Cutch was one of the most flourishing commercial centres in Indian Ocean. Most of the Asian trade passed through Cutch. It was a
meeting point of several trade routes and commanded unlimited potential. Tipu was quick to realize the commercial and strategic significance of this area and opened two commercial centres at Cutch, in this context Mao Seth, a Dallal of Muscat drew the attention of Tipu to the vast Commercial potential of Cutch, he explained how a strong commercial establishment of Cutch could become a important base for further commercial and strategic enterprise in the Indian Ocean. Another advantage for Tipu was the strong anti-British attitude of the ruler of Cutch. Hence he tried to concentrate to develop Cutch as an important link in his commercial empire. Tipu entertained many ambitious ideas in this connection. He wanted to approach the Zaman Shah of Afghanistan for support as well as for recognition; Tipu always craved for the recognition his position as an independent ruler. He approached the Caliph and many others for this purpose. Zaman Shah also had romantic dreams of rebuilding the Great Mughal Empire in India which had almost become extinct. With this dormant desire Tipu Sultan wanted to build close relationship with the rulers of the Persian Gulf, particularly the Zaman Shah of Afghanistan.

South India had always isolated itself from the political developments in the northern part of the county. The political invasions and immigrations from ancient period up to sixteenth and seventeenth centuries had taken place only through the north. The south Indian rulers had zealously protected the region South of Vindyas for a long time. Hence it is said that genuine Indian culture survived only in south India, whereas in the north the frequent invasions from the ancient to modern period had influenced the culture of the people. The rulers of south India therefore were very sensitive to the entry of the foreigners into the subcontinent.
The arrival of Europeans was challenged by the people of India for two reasons: Firstly the Great Mughal Empire had collapsed and there was no strong kingdom to challenge the mighty British, French, Portuguese and other colonial powers. The story of the March of the imperialist first as merchants, second as preachers and then as conquerors is very well known. As a result, the British, French and other Europeans entrenched themselves in many parts of South India. They carried on vigorous trade with this county. They thus increased not only their wealth but also their political position. They were gradually drawn into the vortex of Indian politics by warring claimants and jealous rulers. The British quickly seized this opportunity and moved slowly and systematically into the political developments in South India.

It was Haider Ali the humble soldier from Mysore who first noticed the danger hidden in the British involvement in the Carnatic wars. Haider participated in the Carnatic war as a soldier under Nanjaraja. The Mysore campaign on Arcot was a great disaster but, it produced many great results in the history of India. Mysore politics underwent a dramatic change as a result of this campaign. The rule of the Dalvoys came to an end. But it gave rise to the rise of a new star namely Haider Ali. Haider Ali was very quick to recognize the danger hidden in the occupation of a key region in south India by the English. Incidentally it is here he understood the importance of the western warfare methods and decided to make use of their technique to strengthen his army. Haider Ali, the shrewd rulers and skilled soldier and unparallel general drew a programme of elimination of the English whom he considered as a great threat for the security and welfare of his country. As he gained complete power, his first task was to reduce the
English activities in South India. Haider at that stage formulated a kind of political and economic *laizefair*. He insisted that the Europeans should confine themselves to trade activity and should not meddle with the political setup of South India. In many instances he warned the Europeans to wind up their military activities. Haider also was quick to understand the reason being the Europeans penetration of South India; he was convinced that at no cost the English should be permitted to build their political hegemony in South India.

In this context he opened his eyes to the underlying Geo-political significance of some of the regions in and around Mysore kingdom. When he annexed Bedanur he was impressed the vast wealth of that region. He did not fail to discover the factor which was responsible for the great wealth this coastal kingdom possess, according to him the accesses to the Sea and the abundance of the spice was the two factor which contributed to the prosperity of the kingdom. Next to Bedanore was, the present day Kerala comprising the Malabar region, Cochin, Mahe, Travancore and other principalities. Haider recognized the unmistakable Geo-political significance of places like Cochin, Calicut, Mahe and other coastal centres. Therefore he struggles hard to keep these areas free from British occupation. Haider therefore understood the motivating factor of European nations was trade with India. But Haider perceived that the European would somehow sneak into the area and plan for further expansion. Therefore, he tried to check the advance of English not only in his kingdom but, in other parts of South India also. A close examination of the Mysore Map during the time of Haider reveals not only his Military genius, but also a hidden geo-political agenda. Haider wanted to expand his kingdom check the annexation of the British but, he had to face too
many odds. He faced stiff opposition from the Marathas, Nizam and other rulers but, he fought continuously and vigorously until the last day to keep the British away from South India in general and his kingdom in particular.

It is Tipu who decided to provide a logical conclusion to his father’s programme. But unlike his father; he had a greater exposure of administrative setup as well as military technology. But unfortunately he had to fight against number of enemies and great problems. Tipu took up from, where his father had left. The second Anglo-Mysore war ended without any significant results but, the treaty of Mangalore was a great shock to the English. It was a clear effort on the part of Haider and Tipu to keep the English away from the West Coast. In this way from the day Tipu took of the Mysore kingdom, the strategic factor begins to play a great role in the administration of Tipu Sultan. Tipu had to devout greater attention to Geo-political factor due to the all round danger to his kingdom. Therefore in this scheme of defence and offence the Geo-political element was clearly very important.

Tipu’s first attack on the English in 1790 clearly demonstrated this awareness on the part of Tipu Sultan. Like his father he was very sensitive to the presence of the foreigners in all the borders of his kingdom. The first and the foremost instance where he reacted was during the Travancore Raja’s expansion programme. The Raja purchased two forts belonging to the Dutch. The British were very quick to realize the potential of this area and entered into an alliance with the Raja of Travancore. Tipu Sultan argued that the Dutch had no right to sell these ports to the Travancore Raja, as they originally belonged to the Cochin King, who was an Ally of Tipu Sultan. Tipu put forth his claim over these two forts. He dispatched his army against
the Travancore ruler. The British who had entered into an alliance with the Travancore Raja hence promptly declared a war and thus began the third Anglo Mysore war. This war was a disastrous war which gave almost a deathblow to Tipu Sultan. Why did Tipu and the British consider the possessions of these two forts so important? The Geopolitical importance of these forts is clearly evident in the estimation of Tipu Sultan as well as the British.

The English now moved swiftly. Lord Cornwallis was determined to put an end to Tipu’s overlordship of South India. Deserted by all his allies and confronted by very powerful armies in the world. Tipu put forth a very defiant fight, he again took into account the importance of geo-political factor, he wanted to seal the western border of his kingdom and prepared himself to face the enemy’s invasion from the east, but the English had prepared to surround the Mysore Tiger from all directions. Tipu had control over the West Coast from Karwar to Mangalore but, Kodagu was a soft target. In this context it should be mentioned that both Haider and Tipu considered Kodagu as a very important in their defence policy. That controlled this tiny state and suppressed many rebellions from the Kodagu peoples and Rajas. As a result of their suppression of their revolt Veera Raja of Kodagu turned an adversary of Tipu Sultan. The English seized this golden opportunity and entered into an alliance with the Veera Rajendra of Kodagu.

The third Anglo-Mysore war was a major debacle. Tipu betrayed by his friends could not prevent the march of the powerful British army when Cornwallis surrounded the fort of Srirangapatna. Tipu found no other alternative but surrender. In the Treaty of Srirangapatna Tipu agreed to cede half of his kingdom but when it came to the demand for
the surrender of Kodagu Tipu reacted violently. He was fully aware of its geo-political significant and refused to hand over it to the English. The English demanded the small state for the same reasons. There was a deadlock and the English declared that they would resume the fighting forth with this clearly demonstrates the importance attached to Geo-political element in the foreign policy of Tipu Sultan.

The Fourth Mysore war was a logical conclusion of the third Anglo-Mysore war. The British were panic at the growing strength of Tipu sultan. They started to prepare for the final blow. Tipu made a remarkable recovery from the disastrous terms of the Treaty of 1792. He repaid the war indemnity imposed on him. The economy of the Mysore kingdom also witnessed a remarkable recovery. Tipu as a born soldier began to regroup shattered his shortened army. But, along with this introduced another great reform in his kingdom. He proclaimed what knows the regulations for improving the financial and military position of his kingdom. These regulations aimed at strengthening the ruler economically but they had the intention of hitting the English trade and commerce. The regulations included the land regulations, the commercial regulations and the marine regulations.

Tipu Sultan made a last bid to save himself and his kingdom. He renewed his appeals to the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. The next important step was his appeal to Zaman Shah of Afghanistan. Tipu explained that it was the duty of the Afghan King to save the kingdom of Tipu Sultan and help the causes of the elimination of colonial rule from the area. Tipu explained the necessarily of forming the alliance of Indian and gulf rulers with a view to host all the European colonies. This was similar to the idea of SAARC but Afghan King Zaman Shah was himself involved in a great crisis in his
kingdom. On one side there was a threat of Russian invasion which loomed large throughout the last part of the 18th and early part of the 19th century. But the greatest trouble was from the insiders. British engineered rebellions against Zaman Shah lead by his brother. It was at this crucial juncture that the call came from Tipu sultan. The Afghan King therefore was not in a position to offer any kind of help to Tipu Sultan.

The British now had prepared the ground and it was a perfect situation for them to deliver their final blow. Tipu had no other choice. All the Strategic plans collapsed, the British encircled Tipu Sultan. Lord Wellesley was able to deliver the last blow. Incidentally the Bombay army which passed through Kodagu played a significant role in the fall of the Mysore Kingdom. In this way Tipu’s empire collapsed and his strategy for outwitted by his enemies. The death of Tipu Sultan was not the death of a human being. It was tragic death of a great vision cherished by the two great soldiers of Mysore namely Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. Haider Ali and Tipu became titanic heroes of modern India and command the esteemed and high regard of all those who were wedded to patriotism, nationalism, human values and economic justice. Tipu Sultan will continue to be the fragrant flower, success story, milestone and role model par excellence in Indian history. The immense contributions which are available for researchers are open for study and judgement. To scholars Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan appear as great rulers, to the fraternity of historians they are great role models. The crucial thing, that the present study reveals is that Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan lived like towering statesmen and the contributions they made are legendary for the progress of Mysore State. In conclusion, it could be stated that with great certainty that the
uncompromising and death defying fight against British colonialism and capitalism put up by both Haider and Tipu have left an imperishable impact on the collective consciousness of the Indian people during the last two centuries. The people of India cherished the memory of both Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan even after their death because they lived in peace and enjoyed prosperity under their regime.

Haider had understood the motive of the British as early as 18th century. He had recognized the great importance of Geo-political element in all his schemes, but it was his son who developed it and pursued with vigour and concentration. These two rulers envisaged the unity of the South Asian kingdoms with the view of establishing a strong Asian Confederation. It was their dream to bring together the kingdom of the gulf and South Asian Kingdoms. It was India in the centre and the other gulf countries as participating allies. It was true that countries like Burma, Sri Lanka, Nepal, had not acquire political importance. It is a great tribute to Tipu Sultan in particular who visualized a union of South Asian Countries to achieve political, Economic and cultural unity though vague and incomplete. Tipu dreamt such a noble scheme which if it had succeeded would have altered not only the face of India but also that of the World.