PREFACE

It is an inalienable right of every state to manage its own affairs independently. Normally, a state possesses “sovereignty” over its subjects and its affairs within its territorial limits. Consequently, International Law imposes an obligation on every state to sustain from intervention in the internal and external affairs of any other states. Duty not to intervene extends both in internal and external affairs. However, circumstances may demand intervention. Intervention, which is dictatorial and is prohibited in international law can, therefore, be justified on certain grounds.

This study is an attempt to explain the Law and Politics of Intervention and its recent developments. Non-intervention is the rule, but it is frequently claimed, “my state or my side ought to be allowed to make exceptions to the rule in the form of permissible or justified interventions”.

From the ancient Greeks to the present time, there have, always, been some states who intervened in other states in various ways, and by different means. The past and the present history is replete with examples showing that generally the strong states have intervened in the affairs of weak. In the period of colonialism, the European powers intervened almost every where or where ever they liked—considering and justifying it as their imperial prerogative.
Soviet Union (now disintegrated) had always justified its interventions, wherever it intervened, on the basis of "invitation". Later, Brezhnev propounded the "Brezhnev Doctrine" as the justification of intervention stating that the socialist countries cannot go beyond the communist orbit. Therefore, if any socialist country wants to be independent of Soviet influence, other communist countries have a right to intervene. It is, infact, interpretation of Lenin's Theory that the interests of socialism are higher than the interests of the right of nations to self-determination.

The United States, which itself was a colony of the British Empire, became one of the strong powers in international system after getting independence in eighteenth century. And, it very frequently started resorting to the use of intervention in its relations with other countries. The United States very early assumed the right of hegemonial intervention in the Western Hemisphere, its claims limited mainly by the modest dimensions of American power before the twentieth century. Typically, in the fashion of great powers, the United States in this century expanded its definition of areas of vital interest to include most part of the world, and, accordingly, has been tempted to intervene in the affairs of states far from the shores of the Western Hemisphere.

The United States from the very beginning has been the interventionist power, aspiring to dominate the world by setting the rules of international behavior and directing the developmental course of the Third World
countries in accordance with its economic interests. The “Monroe Doctrine” provided to the United States a unilateral right to intervene anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. All the five post-War military doctrines of US Presidents; Truman, Eisenhower, Nixon, Carter and Reagan have been concerned with the US intervention of one sort or the other in the Third World. The United States in order to prevent the countries of the Third World to adopt the policies not acceptable to it has intervened in their affairs. It is to say that the use of intervention, throughout the history, by some states in the affairs of other states, has been a very common phenomenon.

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