INTRODUCTION

The relationship between the United States of America and its European allies is one of the few in the world today that has remained totally unaffected by the end of the World War.

The world war strategy demanded the United States to look for friends and allies in Europe to stop the spread of communism by the Soviet Union. The U.S. was guided by its global policy of containing international communism.

American military involvement in Europe provided regional security and economic stability in the region. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in this post Cold War era the U.S. now has further strengthened its position in Europe and the world has seen the eastward expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In 1999, the former Warsaw Pact members states Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary became NATO’s “position” and NATO’s “territory” advanced 800 kilometers eastward all at once. In November 2002, it took the historic step of inviting seven more central and Eastern European States, increasing the number of NATO’s member states from 19 to 26 nations.

The present study attempts to highlight the roles of the U.S. and its European allies after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The special focus is on the issues of the enlargement of NATO, the European security, the roles of NATO in Bosnian and Kosovo crises, which have involved the United States of America and its European allies. The study is divided into four chapters, each dealing with a specific issue.
The first chapter endeavours to present the historical development of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). How who America interested to form military alliance with European countries? It reveals that the U.S. interests in the region were largely dictated by its own security and of course, to maintain security and stability for the free nations of the European democratic camp. The U.S. involvement in the affairs of the European region also strengthened its global strategy. The end of the Cold War has certainly reduced the possibility of nuclear holocaust, but the fear of nuclear war still haunts the minds of the States. The second chapter surveys the security cooperation in Europe in the post Soviet era, the abolition of the Warsaw Pact and the unification of Germany, the expansion of NATO and shows that the American engagement in European security affairs is still indispensable and that NATO which provides the organizational framework for American engagement in Europe, is indispensable as well.

NATO needs to be preserved, reformulated, and made the centerpiece of Europe's new security architecture. But the eastward expansion of NATO could lead to tensions and Cold War. The genuine fear of Russia is that by expansion of NATO upto its borders, NATO would become the supreme military of the West. The third chapter attempts to examine the role of NATO in Bosnian Crisis. NATO foreign ministers, meeting in June, 1992, approved for the first time the formation of a force that could be used outside the territory of the alliance states. In June 1992, NATO ships belonging to the Alliance's Standing Naval Force in the Mediterranean, assisted by NATO maritime Patrol Aircraft, began
monitoring operations in the Adriatic Sea. On 12 April 1993, NATO began enforcing the 'no-fly' zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A demilitarized zone had been established on Mt. Igman in August, 1993, following an ultimatum, from NATO to the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their forces from Mt. Igman. The forth chapter focussed on role of NATO in Kosovo crisis. On April 30, 1998, the North Atlantic Council was firmly opposed to independence for Kosovo and to a continuation of the unacceptable status quo. It rejected all use of violence either by state security forces to suppress political dissent or by separatist groups to seek political change.

In mid - 1999, NATO conducted a number of military exercises in Albania, in conjunction with the Albanian armed forces, in an attempt to increase pressure on the Serbian Government to end military action in Kosovo. On March 24, 1999, four German Tornado fighter - bombers took off from a NATO base and participated in the first wave of air strikes against Serb military targets in Kosovo. Fifteen German aircraft and hundreds of support troops were engaged in NATO's Operation Allied Force for the next 78 days. On June 10, 1999, UNSC Resolution 1244 set the basis for ending air campaign. The air operation was suspended by Secretary General Javier Solana of NATO on June 10, 1999, after Milosevic had accepted the prescribed conditions and was formally ended on June 20, 1999, after the withdrawal of all Serb military, special – police and para – military forces from Kosovo.

The fifth Chapter, the concluding section analyses the distinctive aspects of NATO and European Security and its future development.

The method of study has been historical, descriptive and analytical. All source material is library based. Most of the library
data came from libraries in India especially Maulana Azad Library AMU, Aligarh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (New Delhi). The basis of the present study have been various documents, official and authoritative texts on the subject. Journals, articles, newspapers reports and comments, NATO’s documents and so on. The present work attempts and so on. The present work attempts to develop a comprehensive understanding of the issues concerning the role of NATO in European security, peace and stability in Europe.