PREFACE

After casting aside the isolationist policy to assume the global responsibilities of a hegemonic power after World War II, the United States had to rely increasingly on policy analysts for advice on how to conduct its foreign relations. Moreover, as the American bureaucracy significantly expanded after the war, in response to growing domestic and foreign concerns, so too did the opportunities for policy experts to share their insights with government officials. Through their publications, conferences and meetings with members of the Executive, Congress and a host of government departments, boards and agencies, think tanks such as the Brookings Institution, the Council on Foreign Relations and Rand Corporation have been able to develop and expand their networks of influence.

Given the importance of the US in world affairs it is important to understand how the debate on the global role of the US is evolving, how foreign policy decision are made, what American priorities are and how the US exercises its power and influence on the world stage.

The fact that the US is a democracy, influences every aspect of the process, method, personnel, speed and ultimate success of its foreign policy. It means that many departments of the government, private groups, and persons are involved and that, in most cases foreign policy operates before the public eye. In flow charts and diagrams outlining the foreign policy-making process, the role and responsibilities of the Executive, Congress, the National Security Council, the Pentagon, the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and other decision influencer like media and public opinion are clearly defined. However, the role and function of think tanks in the foreign policy-making process has largely been ignored.

While policy makers in the United States continue to solicit the advice of experts in Universities, interest groups, professional and business
associations, corporations, law firms and consulting agencies, they rely increasingly on scholars from think tanks or policy research institutions to identify, develop, shape and at times implement policy ideas.

Therefore, this study focuses both on key issues of foreign policy strategy, of what the US national interest is and which policies serve it best. Also the key questions of foreign policy politics, which institutions and actors within the American political system play what roles and have how much influence. However, the main spotlight of this study is to analyse how and to what extent think-tanks have become involved in the political arena in America and to highlight the various governmental and non-governmental channels they rely on to participate in the policy making process since World War II. By analysing so, a more comprehensive understanding of the domestic sources of public policy would be possible.

The study is based on both primary and secondary source. The primary sources incorporate government documents, reports, Presidential speeches and think tanks annual reports. Tables, figures, books, articles and website bibliography linked to the topic provide a helpful guide for research as secondary sources. The approach to this study is qualitative, historical and analytical. The work is divided into five main chapters. The plan of the work is as under:

**Chapter one** provides the comprehensive theoretical aspect of American foreign policy making process keeping in mind the determinants, implementation process and related issues. It, then, identifies the different actors involved in foreign policy making in America. However, a large part of it is devoted to analyse the growing involvement of think tanks in the policy making process. In brief, it also examines the several contemporary theories often employed by scholars to explain how foreign policy is made. By exposing some of the inherent limitations of several theories and models, it attempts to highlight that it is necessary to expand the parameters of the
study of foreign policy decision making in order to take into account the
growing involvement of think tanks in the policy formulation process.

Chapter two discusses the importance, aims and objectives of
American foreign policy. Moreover it, examine the various issues that
emerge or reemerge in the US foreign policy and on which decision makers
seek views of experts. It, then, discusses the slow but steady rise of the US
global power. A brief historical review highlights some of the issues that
have characterised American foreign policy since the founding of the
republic. Further it examines the domestic and external pressures that
propelled the US to intervene in two World Wars and after 1945, to establish
a worldwide network of alliances and military bases to fight the Cold War.
The record of three Presidents in the office after the end of Cold War and
how they coped in attempting to define a new post-Cold War paradigm for
American foreign policy is also discussed.

Chapter three evaluates the dilemmas of defining think tanks.
Further, it, looks at the typology and changing role of American think tanks.
Although a think tanks boom has occurred internationally, the political,
legal and cultural condition in the US presents a more fertile environment
for think tanks growth. Accordingly, it shows up the factors responsible for
the exceptional growth of think tanks culture in America since World War
II. Different from both public and private sector organisation, they face a set
of problems peculiars to the non-profit organisation.

Yet, not all think tanks in the US have made their presence felt in the
key policy making circle. Therefore, Chapter four, looks at the organisation,
management and influence of three major think tanks, keeping in mind their
size, funds, area of specialisation and media citations. It, then, identifies the
various strategies and channels they rely on to gain access to the corridors of
power. By doing so, it observes how to what extent think tanks have become
entrenched in American decision making networks.
The concluding Chapter discusses why it is necessary to devote greater attention to the role think tanks play in the foreign policy making process and also to provide more comprehensive approach to the study of American foreign policy making. While it is important to identify the psychological and bureaucratic constraints, which influence decision makers, it is equally important to examine other domestic inputs, which may influence the behavior of American decision makers.