The foreign policy of India has assumed new dimensions especially after the 1962 debacle, its study therefore warrants greater caution. Undoubtedly sizable literature has been produced on the various aspects of foreign policy, ever since India emerged as an independent entity on the political map of the world. But very little attention has been paid to the most crucial problem, i.e. the formulation of foreign policy and the role of Parliament in this regard. To what extent does the Parliament influence the decisions, affects the negotiations and determines the policy formulation, has not been paid due attention. The present work is an endeavour to analyse and comprehend the role that the Parliament can play in the ultimate analysis. The thesis is designed to deal firstly with the general aspects of the problem and then to examine the Sino-India border dispute.

With the help of historical documents and on the basis of day-to-day analysis of the Parliamentary proceedings, I have tried to make an unbiased and
judicious study of the various processes through which the Parliament in India can have a say and exert its influence in matters of foreign policy. However, the conclusions drawn about the role of Parliament are basically guided by the constitutional provisions regarding the role of Parliament and a through analysis of the proceedings of the Parliament, covering a period of roughly twenty years. Extensive use has been made of Parliamentary Debates, the constitution of India, the Letters, Notes and Memoranda exchanged between the Governments of India and the People's Republic of China, in the form of White Papers, Notes and comments in the various journals, periodic or annual Reports of ad hoc committees, the reports of the Ministry of External Affairs and the other Government of India Publications. Since Nehru remains undisputedly the chief architect of India's foreign policy, his speeches both inside and outside the Parliament constitute the most dependable basis of India's foreign policy.

The thesis consists of seven chapters and the conclusion. The first Chapter is the analytical exploration of the various factors determining
India's foreign policy. Nehru's ideology, combining in him the western realism and the eastern idealism, the historical legacy of Buddha, Asoka and Gandhi, geopolitics and the various Resolutions of the Indian National Congress, formulated in the pre-independence era which still constitute the cornerstone of foreign policy postulates. Some of the determinants being analysed are the principle of national interest, India's geographical situation, economic potential, military prowess and historical traditions. Non-alignment happened to be the chief doctrine of Nehruite foreign policy. Besides other factors influencing India's foreign policy, its chief tenets viz., ties with the Commonwealth of Nations, faith in peace and the United Nations, condemnation of apartheid and racial discrimination and anti-colonialism have also been dealt with in detail.

The Second Chapter is an enquiry into the functioning and processes of relevant agencies that can partake of the responsibility of making or unmaking of foreign policy namely the cabinet, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs and the
Parliament. Adequate attention has been paid to the role that Nehru played as a dual incumbent, combining in him the twin offices of the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs. Consequently, Nehru occupies a unique position by virtue of his charismatic personality and official capacity. The chapter also deals with the working of the Indian Parliament and its committees in this regard.

The Third Chapter gives an insight into the various instruments through which the Parliament can control the foreign policy. It is at this stage that the Parliament can shape and mould the foreign policy, when it is debated in its forums. The chapter discusses the instruments of parliamentary control - major Parliamentary Debates, Question Hour, discussions on Motions, Resolutions and Demands for Grants and the Ministerial Statements.

The fourth Chapter makes a study of the impact of Opposition parties on foreign policy issues. The existence of Parliamentary Opposition as a corrective to the ruling party is one of the essential ingredients and pre-requisites of the successful working of parliamentary democracy.
The function of the Opposition ought to be no less significant than that of the party-in-power. In India, the Opposition has been rather hopelessly disjointed, weak and ineffective. It is a chaotic multitude consisting of several heterogeneous groups. Numerically also, it is quite unimpressive as compared to the thumping majority of the Ruling Party. The Chapter also makes a thorough study of the various existing Opposition parties over the Sino-India border dispute.

The fifth Chapter examines the vicissitudes through which the Sino-India relations and the border disputes have passed. It analyses how the relations deteriorated, having passed through a long phase of cordiality and fraternity. The episode of the Dalai Lama fleeing from China and seeking political asylum in India, the Tibetan revolt, Longju incident, minor skirmishes on the border and the Chinese refusal to hold discussions on the McMohan Line presented a dismal picture, culminating in the 1962 Chinese aggression. The tragedy could have been averted if sane consuls had prevailed. The arguments for and against the respective claims of the contending
parties to the dispute have been weighed as judiciously as possible under the circumstances on the basis of available information in India.

The sixth Chapter is a case-study of the 1962 Parliamentary Debates over the Sino-India border dispute. It is thoroughly based on the Debates, Question-Hour, Adjournment and Calling-Attention Motions and Demands for Grants. The Lok Sabha Debates form the focus of the study, owing to its representative character, reflecting a lesser cross-section. Most of the problems, discussed in the Rajya Sabha, present duplication of the Lok Sabha proceedings, hence the avoidance of its material. The case-study covers the year 1962, the most crucial and pertinent, when the armed clash between the two erstwhile neighbours took place across the borders. It makes an analysis of the various parliamentary processes, discussed in the third Chapter. It also attempts to analyse the reactions of the Members, expressed through hectic or uproarious scenes, interruptions, occasional laughters, comic gestures, undue applause or condemnation and purposeless walkouts.
The seventh Chapter analyses the role that the Parliament has played. It treats of the Parliament's constitutional position in this regard vis à vis the Executive branch of the government. It scrutinises the Executive responsibility in the light of various parliamentary processes through which the Parliament indirectly influences or directs the policy. Besides this, the Chapter also takes into account the measures and means which ensure parliamentary supervision. It also deals with the role of Parliament in Treaty-making. It tries to analyse the factors and limitations which eclipse the role of Parliament in this regard. It also scrutinises the role of Parliamentary Consultative Committees. It suggests to improvise the activities of the Committees. Other measures are suggested to improve the position of Parliament in the field of foreign policy-making.

The Conclusion highlights the need to increase parliamentary supervision and control of foreign policy. Its committee-work should be galvanised and speeded up. Trends should develop to overshadow Cabinet despotism and strengthen the work of Parliament.

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