The present study is an attempt to assess and review critically the attitudes and programmes of the Socialist Parties of India with reference to India's foreign policy. Till 1947 India was not an independent state and hence had no foreign policy of its own. With the dawn of independence India inherited complicated problems both in internal and external matters. India could not escape from the power politics of rival groups and alliances. The choice of non-alignment was actually an attempt to secure India's national interest at that time. Though the war with China in 1962, the death of Jawahar Lal Nehru, the architect and executor of India's foreign policy, and the armed conflict with Pakistan in 1965 provided a different anvil for evaluation and assessment of India's foreign policy declarations, yet India's faith in peace and non-alignment could not be shaken. The way, India has faced these challenges to freedom and non-alignment is indeed an example of sincere devotion to the cause of freedom and peaceful-co-existence.

The Socialist Parties of India have been continuously trying to give new looks and orientations to India's foreign policy. The parties selected for this study are CPI, Left and Right, PSP and SSP. In principle, they agree to Government pursuing a policy of peace, non-alignment, anti-colonialism and anti-racialism, yet in their ideology each differed from the other. They have their own solutions to offer with regard to world problems.
A chronological study of socialist parties attitude towards official policy of India inevitably raises the following questions. Have these parties made any contribution to the thinking on foreign policy in India? Have they accepted the principles and aims of the foreign policy adopted by the Congress Government? To what extent have they approved of the stand taken by the Government with regard to China and India? The present study attempts to answer these questions in some details. The study intends to highlight the role of the parties inside and outside the Parliament and assess their impact on Indian public opinion and determinants of foreign policy.

An extensive use of Lok Sabha Debates, Rajya Sabha Debates, Documents, Books, Journals, and Periodicals, Pamphlets, Resolutions and Election Manifestoes of the Parties, their official organs such as New Age, People's Democracy, Janata, Mankind, News papers and Year Books has been made.

The dissertation contains three chapters. The first chapter deals with the basic principles and issues of the Indian foreign policy. The second chapter deals with the Communist Party of India, its emergence as a great opposition to the Government. The functions, structure, ideology and programme relating to India's foreign policy principles and issues have been elaboratory discussed. The third chapter highlights the attitude of the Praja Socialist Party and Samyukta Socialist
Party towards essential ingredients of India's foreign policy, such as non-alignment, anti-colonialism, anti-racialism, membership of Commonwealth and relation with China and Pakistan.

The conclusion is devoted to an objective assessment of the role of Socialist Parties and their impact on policy-making agencies.

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