Decolonization is a multi-faceted problem involving political, economic, social, cultural and geographical dimensions, all of which cannot be dealt in one volume. Therefore, the researcher has confined his study only to the political aspects of decolonization.

Between 1955 and 1960, the concept of non-alignment became known to the world and the struggle for independence got accelerated in all the colonies in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific region and Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean islands. A large number of countries became independent after 1961, the year in which the first Non-aligned Summit Conference was held at Belgrade. The main objective of this study is to assess the contribution of the Non-aligned Movement to the process of decolonization between 1961 and 1986.

The Non-aligned countries individually, as well as, as members of the Non-aligned Movement have played a substantive role in the process of decolonization after the Second World War. In 1961, there were only 25 members of NAM, while by 1986 their number rose to 102 nations, out of a total of 159 members of the United Nations. Thus, next to the United Nations, NAM is the largest single club of nations in the world and has played a very important role by supporting movements for independence in the colonies. Non-alignment has become an accepted policy of almost all the newly independent nations and has among its adherents even the people of those small islands which are still struggling for independence.

The dependent peoples, even after their independence, continued to be under the influence of their former colonial masters. To get rid of their control, the newly independent nations demanded economic emancipation and a just international economic order. How far NAM has been successful in the fight against colonialism has been discussed in this work.

While there is a good amount of source material on the meaning, philosophy, policy and history of the Non-aligned Movement,
there is hardly any work which deals with role of the Non-aligned Movement in the process of decolonization. It is for this reason that the present researcher has chosen this topic, "Non-aligned Movement and Decolonization".

To collect material for the present study, the researcher had to depend on NAM, UN and Government publications, international year books and encyclopedias, books by eminent authors, journals, articles, newspapers and atlases.

Monthly, Wall Street Journal, Caribbean Insight, The Indian Journal of Politics and India Today; a large number of research articles, newspapers like Borba, The Times, The Pakistan Times, Listener and all the important Indian newspapers. Besides these, discussions have been held with learned academicians at Aligarh and New Delhi.

The approach of this study is historical and analytical and a sincere effort has been made in this study to evaluate the principles, policies, prospects and achievements of the Non-aligned Movement regarding decolonization.

Chapter I deals with the 'Principles and Objectives of Non-aligned Movement'. Chapter II describes the 'Development of Non-aligned Movement' from its very beginning to 1986. Chapters III to IX highlight the political domination of colonial powers in the colonies, causes of emancipation, revolts and uprisings of dependent peoples, support of the Non-aligned Movement through resolutions adopted in meetings and conferences and various forms of assistance leading to decolonization of dependent territories in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, the Pacific, Atlantic and the Indian Ocean regions.

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In the end, I wish to thank Mr. Abdul Aleem Ansari, Senior Personal Assistant, Dean's Office, Faculty of Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the care he took and the patience he showed in preparing the typescript of the present work.

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