In this work an attempt has been made to unravel the issues involved in the party system in India. The period covered is confined to 1952 to 1960. It was the seed time of the Indian Party system when new policies were formulated, new issues were being unearthed and new institutions were being born. Party system with new one party dominance were seeing the light of the day and splinter groups of the Congress were finding roots. New parties were coming into existence and old parties were finding shaky start. In this cloudy atmosphere; new parties like Swatantra Party, KMPP, Socialist Party, Communist party of two hues and colours were coming of their own and expressing their views, and multi-party system with one party dominance were coming up.

In India democratic trends existed from the very inception of the freedom movement. As soon as political power came in Indian hands efforts were made to stabilise this power and exercise it through democratic channels and institutions borrowed from other countries where they were tried and tested and experimented. Opposition was one of such institutions which was borrowed alongside the 'His Majesty's' most Loyal Opposition.

In the first Chapter I have tried to trace the history of opposition in Western countries which are more developed
and the way they have influenced the working of the government. India has gradually imbibed the manner and the role of the opposition. The essentials of parliamentary democracy have been worked out. In Chapter II the evolution of opposition in the developed countries as His Majesty's most Loyal opponent has been analysed. In Chapter III historical account of Indian political parties in retrospect is narrated. At first these political parties were more in the nature of splinter groups which came to function in the nature of pressure groups and interest groups having no separate identities. In the concluding chapters, I have borrowed a great deal from books and reports. The information called from various sources more particularly from legislative debates have supplied me enough data. To all these sources I owe a great deal. But I have formed my own opinions and have great pleasure in acknowledging them.

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