

PREFACE

This study is a modest attempt to understand and explain the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its post-revolutionary period. The Iranian revolution has had some unique distinction which resulted not only in the change of a political regime but also transformed the entire socio-economic and cultural fabric of Iran. An important dimension of the revolution has been that it was spear-headed by the religious clerics with mass support from the middle and poor strata of the Iranian society. The revolution heralded a new era in Iran's relations with the rest of the world and totally changed its foreign policy orientations. There appeared a total departure in the foreign policy objectives which not only carved a new Iran in global politics but also made it an important force in world politics thereby projecting Iran as the vanguard of a global Islamic movement.

This thesis is divided into three parts covering eight chapters beside a preface. The first part deals with the foreign policy of Iran during Khomeini regime (1979-89), the second part covers the post Khomeini era (1989 onwards) while the third part is dedicated to some concluding remarks. The first part is covered under six chapters. Chapter one briefly

deals with all those factors which largely shaped Iran's foreign policy. It also attempts at understanding the dynamics of the Islamic Revolution leading to the emergence of an 'Islamic government' in Iran.

Chapter two is about Iran's policy of 'Neither East Nor West'. In this chapter an attempt has been made to assess the policy of 'Neither East Nor West' and study the similarities and differences between the principles, objectives and goals of Non-alignment pursued by Iran in realising its 'Neither East Nor West' policy. This chapter also attempts to understand the areas of conflicts and accommodation in Iran-U.S. relation's with a view to understand their implications. A brief account of Iran's relations with the countries of Western Europe is also included in this chapter. The third chapter deals Iran's policy towards Soviet Union and its relation's with the countries of the Eastern Europe.

Chapter fourth seeks to understand Iran's policy towards the Persian Gulf region and the Muslim states. The basic issues and problems involved in Iran's relation's with the Muslim countries and regional states are analysed in this chapter. This chapter also focuses on Iran's relations with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Members of

Stead Fastness Front and its three neighbours - Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan with whome Iran shares common boundaries.

Opposition to Israel and support to Palestinian cause has been one of the basic objectives of Iran's foreign policy. Chapter V deals with the approach of revolutionary leaders towards Zionism and Iran's stand viz-a-viz Arab-Israel conflict.

Iran's anti-super power rhetoric and her policy of decreasing dependence on Western countries brought her close to the third world countries. Consequently, strengthening relations with the third world countries became the basic objective of Iran's foreign policy. Chapter six aims at understanding Iran's relations with third world countries in general and her special relations with India in particular being an important actor in third world politics. One of the important objectives of Iran's foreign policy has been to support the liberation movements and denounce oppression throughout the world particularly in the countries of the third world. Chapter six also stresses the role of Iran in achieving these foreign policy objectives.

The second part of the thesis is covered under chapter seven which largely deals with the political developments in Iran after Imam Khomeini and its impact on the foreign policy of Iran. Iran's domestic and global compulsions leading to shift in her foreign policy in this era is also discussed in this chapter.

The present work is largely descriptive and analytical in nature is based on available data contained in Books, articles, newspapers, periodicals and the statements and speeches of the leaders of the revolution and the persons who held positions of authority in Iranian government.

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