While teaching the paper on Modern Economic Development in the Degree Commerce Classes in my College, (Jagannath Barooah College, Jorhat) I have to give lessons to my students on the process and patterns of economic development of the Great Powers (the U.K., the U.S.A., The U.S.S.R. and Japan) and our India. In this process I developed some special interest in the American economy which, once a colonial economy, transformed into the most prosperous and affluent economy of the present era. Particularly the role played by the United States of America in the post-Second War European Recovery Programme under the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine drew my keen attention to, and deep interest in the dynamics of the American economy. The United States of America came up to take the leader's role since the First World War in the spheres of international trade, commerce and industrial growth.

The United States of America emerged as the supreme power- politically, militarily and also technoeconomically- immediately after the Second World War. The American Policy- framers and the economists have since been contributing considerably in shaping the changing international economy. Over and above her crucial responsibility in the European reconstruction and reparation programmes, she ventured to extend her liberal economic and technical assistance towards the underdeveloped economies of the contemporary world. Many of these countries became free after the Second World War from long colonial rule of the western powers. At this juncture the national economies of these countries were rather awfully poor and needed reconstruction and transformation from stagnancy to dynamic growth.

The U.S.A. incepted the Marshall Plan (1947) and the Truman Doctrine (1949) with a view to assisting and cooperating with skilled manpower, money, materials and equipments for the economic growth of the underdeveloped countries. Thus, she gradually drifted away from her traditional isolationist policy and began to pursue a policy of active participation in the effort of economic regeneration of many countries, both rich and poor. This participation, of course, was initiated with military assistance and was gradually extended to the economic spheres by offering financial and technical help to the needy countries of
the world. We term this post-war process of international economic assistance as 'foreign aid'. Foreign aid, along with foreign trade, became concurrently the basic factor of international economic relations. America took the leading role in this dynamic process.

India, which attained her independence in 1947, was a country with a very lopsided economy and her overall economy was a characteristic example of a 'poor' or a 'stagnant economy'. The Government of India found it quite a difficult task to rebuild the country's economy, with the meagre resources, both human and material, available within the country. The Government was thus compelled to seek technical and economic assistance from the advanced countries for the purpose of financing the country's different developmental projects. The U.S.A. till then was rather indifferent towards Indian programmes, but gradually due to dynamic Indian leadership, the Government of U.S.A. became enthusiastic towards Indian affairs and ventured to open economic links with India through her foreign aid programmes in 1951. Trade too, continued to play increasing role in the very process of growth of Indo-US economic relations. American assistance and cooperation in Indian economic programmes since 1947 is indeed commendable.

The very process of historical development aroused my interest and inquisitiveness to study the Indo-US economic relations in greater details and enquire the consequential impact of this relation on the Indian economy. And, hence this effort. The study is since India's independence in 1947, and particularly since 1951, when the U.S.A. opened up positive steps to come to our assistance. The whole work has been completed in twelve chapters (including the introductory chapter) and almost all the chapters have been analysed in the light of historical, factual and statistical information that could be made available.

The U.S.A. and India are the two major democracies of present world. Naturally, therefore, it is natural that these two countries should work hand-in-hand for mutual socio-economic well-being. India's strategic entity in Asia demands social, political and economic stability and sustained growth. Her relationship with the U.S.A. in this sense is vital. Indo-US relationship shall persist for all times to come. This needs mutual tolerance, respect and understanding and we believe, these shall in no way be lacking.
However, in preparing the thesis, I had to labour hard in collecting needed materials, since I remain at a distance of nearly 300 Kms. away from the University of Gauhati. Even it is quite difficult to get materials for a research of this nature in Assam. I left no stone unturned to collect all possible materials from different sources in India and from the United States of America for the purpose.

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