Indian nationalism was aroused under the impact of exploitation under colonial rule. Indian independence was the product of certain specific environment and result of the impact of international linkage. Perhaps the greatest contribution of the British rule to the growth of Indian nationalism was the introduction of western education in India. The study of English provided an opportunity to study the democratic thought of modern Europe and also of the nationalist struggle for freedom in different countries. The knowledge of certain contemporary events and movements, such as unification of Italy, Germany and Ireland, deeply stirred the emotion of Indians. Thus, European nationalist movements led to development of nationalism in India. The Indian freedom struggle against British imperialism derived inspiration from various liberation struggles, the world over. Ireland and Italy ranked foremost among them. However Italian nationalism had two distinct facets. The Italian unification movement spearheaded by Mazzini, Cavour and Garibaldi, inspired and influenced the revolutionary movement in India in a decisive way. The rise of Fascism was viewed by the nationalist leadership with mixed feelings, admiration with reservation. The present research work seeks to explore the extent to which Italian nationalism influenced Indian freedom struggle.

Political thought and actions have been greatly influenced by historical events. In this study, the researcher explains the influence of actions and thoughts of Italian
nationalist leaders on Indian freedom struggle. The present study ventures to undertake this task on a wide canvas, and adopting a framework of investigation which incorporates all the diverse and inter-related issues on the subject which is of great historical and political importance for any contemporary scholar.

The periodizations of the study encompass the period beginning from the Italian renaissance up to the era of fascist Italy under Mussolini. It also encompasses the period beginning from the Indian nationalism i.e. renaissance period of nineteenth century to the culmination of Indian independence in 1947, covering the different phases of Indian freedom struggle.

**The objectives of the study may be enumerated as follows:**

1. The study seeks to evaluate the impact of Italian renaissance on the emergence of Indian nationalism.

2. The study attempts to highlight the impact of the Italian liberation movement on Indian freedom struggle.

3. The present study undertakes to explore the influence of Italian nationalism and unification movement on the different phases of the Indian freedom movement, spanning the moderate, extremist and revolutionary phases and extending up to the Gandhian Phase.

4. The study also ventures to explore the Indian nationalist response to the rise of fascism in Italy.

The present study in based on qualitative research for the purpose of collecting and analyzing of data, and is historical and descriptive in nature. The research design of the study is exploratory by nature. Central to it is the formulation of research problems for
precise investigation. For this purpose, extensive literature survey on the subject has been conducted. This study is based on the use of books, journals, periodicals, internet etc. Data analysis is done with reference to the objectives of the study and major research questions.

The Chapterizations of this thesis are:

Chapter 1 - Introduction
Chapter 2 - Impact of Italian Renaissance on Nineteenth Century Indian Renaissance
Chapter 3 – Indian Nationalist Movement, the International Linkage
Chapter 4 – Italian Unification: A Historical Retrospect
Chapter 5 – Italian and Indian Nationalism- Unity of Thought and Action
Chapter 6 – Fascism in Italy- Historic Phenomena
Chapter 7 – Indian Nationalist Response to Fascism-Polarity and Complementarity
Chapter 8 – Conclusion
Chapter 9 – Selected Bibliography

The Renaissance period of both countries, Italy and India, was characterized by rapid growth of nationalism. Indian Renaissance was influenced by Italian ideas and models together with India’s search for her own identity. Indian nationalism had two distinct facets. Italian Risorgimento, and works and ideas of Italian heroes, inspired three categories of Indian nationalists, namely, the Moderates, the Extremists, Revolutionaries; and other nationalists also. The rise of Fascism was viewed by the Indian nationalist
leadership with a reasoned ambivalence representing a combination of appreciation and
criticism not subscribing to its irredentism but recognizing its achievements through the
disciplined foundation of national life. In this study an attempt has been made to analyze
in critical perspective, the impact of Italian Nationalism on India’s freedom struggle