PREFACE

This work is an attempt at studying India as a factor in the United States policy towards East Pakistan/Bangladesh during its crisis of 1971. In other words, it tries to examine as to how far India, through her relations with the United States, (stress is laid upon her relations with the US from 1966 to the beginning of 1972) influenced the latter’s policy towards Bangladesh during its crisis of 1971.

The East Bengali Muslims were struggling for their economic emancipation and political identity ever since the creation of Pakistan due to neglect and discrimination. This struggle flared up into the crisis of 1971, which resulted in the liberation of Bangladesh.

During this crisis which turned into a successful liberation war for East Bengalis, India played a significant role. The United States, in opposition to India and East Bengalis, tried for the maintenance of status quo. This US policy towards Bangladesh crisis was conditioned to a great extent by her relations with India. This work tries to take a close look at these relations.

This work also tries to examine the economic differences and political contradictions of United States and India. The main hindrances in the way of establishing close
relations between them were; India's faith in non-alignment and her opposition to military alliances sponsored by the USA, the American support especially military support to Pakistan and India's closeness with the Soviet Union.

The United States of America, after having emerged as the most powerful and the most prosperous nation in the world after the Second World War, was faced with the problem of meeting the Cold War threat in the world. Both US and Soviet Union were trying to spread their influences in different parts of the world. As regarding the South Asian region, the US found India to be an obstacle in her way of establishing her influence there. After making several unsuccessful attempts to bring India into its fold, the US started following a policy of containing India directly as well as through Pakistan. The United States role in Bangladesh crisis is a part of this policy. This work intends to examine this aspect as well.

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