ABSTRACT

The thesis deals with the issue of Indo-Iranian cultural and political relations between 1947 and 2000. India and Iran are not just nations of Asia, but rather two civilizations, which grew symbiotically through the centuries. The thesis not only focuses on centuries old bilateral relations, but also on several other vital issues. Some of the contemporary issues concerning Iran and India, such as technical and scientific co-operation, Indo-Iranian gas pipeline etc are being continued in the post 2000 period and hence some of these issues are discussed contemporaneously to make them more meaningful. In chapter one, the discussion commences from the Neanderthal man and the question of the shared past is discussed in the light of the latest archeological findings. The exodus of the Persian scholars, artisans, crafts- men and religious leaders to India over the centuries has been discussed in the thesis.

In chapter II the relationship between India and Iran, particularly after India became independent has been dealt with. The chapter, which is titled Indo-Iranian Relations -the shah regime, discusses among other things, the basic character of the Indo-Iranian relations during the cold-war era, when the world was divided in to power blocs under the USSR and the USA.

Chapter III focuses on the question of Islamic revolution and its impact on the foreign policy perceptions and shifts of emphasis. The slogan,
export Iranian Revolution in fact led to Iran’s isolation in the international arena. However, pragmatism could win over friends.

Chapter IV deals with the triangular relationship of India-Iran and Pakistan as well Indo-Iranian policy towards Afghanistan.

Chapter V entitled, Indo-Iranian relations on the threshold of the 21st Century provides meaningful discussion on several bilateral and trilateral issues, including on Indo-Iranian gas pipeline, space and nuclear research co-operation etc. The final chapter in the form is conclusion.