One of the noteworthy results of the Second World War was more American involvement in Asian countries under British, French or Allied colonialism. In most of these colonies indigenous national movements had been going on. The Second World War accentuated the struggle between nationalism and imperialism in these areas. With the entry of the United States into the war in 1941, the United States under the leadership of F.D.R. Roosevelt and H. Truman became interested in these Asian struggles for the successful conduct of the war as well as post war settlements. The Indian nationalists altered between hope and despair of United States support. The attitude of the Roosevelt Administration towards the Indian Independence Movement has attracted the widest attention of writers in both India and the U.S. With the release of the diplomatic papers pertaining to India in the U.S. State Department's Foreign Relations series, a lot of material became available during the 1960's. The material throws considerable light on the behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts of the Roosevelt Administration to influence British imperial policy in India.
During the past decade three significant books have appeared in quick succession: A. Guy Hope, *America and Swaraj: The U.S. Role in Indian Independence* (1968); R.C. Jauhri, *American Diplomacy and Independence for India* (1970); and Gary R. Hess, *America Encounters India, 1941-1947* (1971). They have enhanced the available knowledge on the subject and supplemented the prevailing interpretations. Hope's conclusion that the United States struggle influenced the attainment of Indian Independence has been substantially modified by the other two studies.

However, these works have been written primarily on the basis of the materials and records released and available in the United States. Two of the above authors are Americans and even R.C. Jauhri, though an Indian, worked in the United States. This is a fascinating area and one limitation of the above works has been to reflect and spotlight the American policy vis-à-vis the British. Little attention has been paid to the response and reaction of Indian press, Hindus, Muslims, Congress, the League and such other groups to the American policy. I have tried to focus attention on this neglected aspect of Indian opinion.

Besides the American sources, my emphasis has been on British sources recently released under the title
of The Transfer of Power, private papers of Indian leaders available at Nehru Memorial Museum Library, Proceedings and records of political organizations, Indian newspapers and journals and other contemporary sources.

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Department of History, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

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Devi Verma