PREFACE

In the process of fast growing integration, interaction, and involvement among the nations of the world, the practice of intervention through various ways and means, has become an important tool in the realm of REALPOLITIK. It is becoming more and more dynamic, rendering any attempt at its theorization, a difficult task.

Since the Second World War, with the emergence of the superpowers, the politics of intervention has acquired newer dimensions especially in relation to the 'Third World'. Inherent weaknesses of factional politics, political instability, and economic backwardness in the 'Third World' have provided a fertile ground to the major powers to foster and channelise interventionism in order to enhance their areas of influence.

Repeated cases of intervention have baffled the operationalists and the strategists today, posing a serious challenge to the theoretical underpinnings, sustaining the paradigm of classical theory. The evolution of the international system has transformed intervention from an incident to a structural aspect of international politics. In the changing circumstances negotiation, mediation, economic aid, multinational and transnational corporations have been employed, which seem non-interventionists in appearance, but are the effective sources of intervention,
have not been encompassed by the classical theorists. This has posed a serious challenge to the scholars and political scientists to propound new paradigms which could bring down the glaring divergences in its theory and praxis.

The first chapter "Theorising Intervention" critically analyses the two schools of thought dealing with the meaning, definition, and the types of intervention. The classical view, supported by the legal theorists which hold that direct physical force or threat of it should be taken 'intervention' as such, seems to be obsolete these days. It has really circumscribed the wider dimensions of the interventionary phenomenon in contemporary international relations. Several types of interferences - overt and covert, tacit and blatant, open and clandestine - that have often occurred or occur particularly in modern time have been well taken care of by the second (modern) school of thought. The chapter also describes the types of intervention - military, political, bloc, economic, and humanitarian - which are so inextricable and overlapping that any attempt of branding a particular act of intervention, of a specific type, is a failure.

We find voluminous literature pervaded with the concept but very little is devoted to the problem of theorising intervention. Therefore, a major thrust in the study has
been placed on the double standard, definitional, and the problem of operationalization, plaguing the normative, legal and strategic studies respectively.

The history of U.S. intervention in Central America can be traced back to the 'Monroe Doctrine' (1823), a phenomenon that became a common feature of its diplomacy after the Second World War. The people of Central America suffered both at the hands of indigenous exploitative rulers (U.S. stooges) and imperialistic external powers. The age old socio-political systems of these countries burst into, uprisings, subversions, guerilla warfares and ultimately to revolutions. An attempt to trace the U.S. interventionist policies in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica since the Second World War, has been made in the second chapter.

The geo-strategic location and the economic resources of a nation is both an asset, as well as, a handicap. Geography bestows unique complications for Nicaragua. It was due to the geo-strategic and economic reasons that Nicaragua had has remained a victim of the U.S. imperialistic designs. These aspects along with the U.S. meddling in the affairs of Nicaragua from the time of the American pirate, William Walker in the 1850s to the U.S. - promoted overthrow of nationalist leader, Jose Santos Zeleya in 1909 to the U.S.
military occupation of Nicaragua from 1912-1923 and 1926-1933 to subsequent U.S. support for the dynastic dictatorship of the Somoza family from 1936-1979 finds place in the next chapter.

Chapter four and five deal with the U.S. military and economic aggression against Nicaragua since 1979-1988. In 1979, the year the United States lost another Cuba, it escalated its military and economic onslaughts on Nicaragua. The U.S. started its base camps along the border of Honduras, started joint military exercises (Big Pine I, II & III), provided aid to the contras, and deployed the CIA agents. Attempts were made to strangulate the economy by imposing trade-embargoes, sanctions, suspension of loans and so on. All these findings, which are largely based on primary sources have been properly analysed in these chapters.

The military and economic aggression against Nicaragua were made with the political motive of destabilizing the infant Sandinista regime. To achieve its political goals, the U.S. undertook the tactics of propaganda; military build-up in the surrounding countries; aid to the contras; use of the veto power in the Security Council; hindering the Contadora negotiations; blocking the peace accords; defying to abide by the ICJ verdicts and finally indulging in the
Iran-Contra scandal; have been analysed in the sixth chapter "Political Intervention in Nicaragua".

Finally, all these findings have been synthesised in conclusion, in the light of various issues raised in the study.

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