

PREFACE

The saga of Nepal's struggle for freedom from one of the most - reactionary and autocratic regimes of the world has been well documented by a number of Nepali, Indian and Western scholars. The overall impact of the freedom movement in India on the political development of Nepal has been more or less universally acknowledged. Particular references have been made to the indirect role of the Government of India under Jawaharlal Nehru and a more direct role of the Congress Socialist Party led by Jaya Prakash Narayan, Narendra Deva and Ram Monohar Lohia.

The present dissertation is the product of a search for the extent of the support that the Indian Left extended to the democratic movement in Nepal and the way such support was extended. Our hypothesis is that Nepal being technically a vassal state outside British India, neither the Indian National Congress nor the 'States Peoples' Movement could have a role in Nepal. Yet Nepal could hardly remain untouched by the events in India and Indians, particularly, the radical Indians, could be hardly expected to remain passive about Nepal.

We have generally described such radical political elements advocating democracy and fighting inequality and oppression - as the Left. We have traced the first appearance of such political actors to the extremist

movement in India that began in the wake of the partition of Bengal in 1905. After World War I this Left took somewhat concrete, though fragmented, shape within the broad spectrum of the nationalist movement.

The physical proximity of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh of today was largely responsible for the substantial role of the (Congress) Socialist Party - which operated mainly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh - in Nepal. But the present study has indicated considerable role of the other left Parties and groups of India in the struggle. It has also noted certain limitations of the Indian Left's approach to Nepal's democratic movement, one such weakness being the thin line of demarcation between the desire for democracy in Nepal and the desire for its integration with India which, probably, may explain the apprehensions about big power aspirations of India occasionally expressed to Nepalese political circles. Yet it strikes every observer of Nepalese politics that the only parties which came to power in Nepal through democratic process - the Nepali Congress and the United Communist Party of Nepal - have had past association with the two major Left Parties of India - the Socialist Party and the Communist Party of India.