

P R E F A C E

Indo - Soviet relationship adequately reflects the fact that difference in socio-economic and political frameworks is no barrier to develop a deep bond of amity and friendship between two nations. The research work at hand is an honest endeavour to throw light on different aspects of Indo-Soviet relationship that saw its growth over the last four decades from 1947 to 1989. What is more, it tries to uphold a clear outline of Indian foreign policy pursued over the years and quite parallelly to enlighten the nature and dimension of non-aligned movement during the period. This is no denying the fact that there are a Plethora of works on Indo-Soviet relationship undertaken so far by different scholars. But this study may claim a great deal of academic significance in so far as it covers the contributions of three important Prime Ministers of India who belonged to the same family. The approach is holistic, as it tries to show in what context the Nehruvian philosophy saw its birth, how it moulded contemporary policies and events, and with what acceptance it did pass down to the regimes of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. Considered from this point of view, this study is likely to provide a fillup to the gap in researches heitherto undertaken in this arena, and preserve a value that authentic history contains.

As I complete the work, I, at the very outset express my reverential gratitude to my teacher and guide, Dr. Manash Chakraborty, Department of Political Science, University of North

Bengal, without whose constant watch, valuable instructions and spontaneous help this research would never have seen its completion. I also express my gratitude to the Information Centre of the Soviet Embassy in general, and to Sri Debjyoti Mukherjee of the Centre in particular for helping me with enough books of immense value in regard to my work, which would have never been possible for me to collect at my own accord. I am also grateful to the management of the Library of the University of North Bengal from where I got books to feed my work.

I owe my inspirations in this research work to my father, Late Jamini Kumar Deb and my mother, Smt. Bimala Prativa Devi; I feel myself fortunate to think that I have succeeded in completing my works in the life-time of my beloved mother, thereby not betraying her firm conviction. I extend my thanks to Dr. C.P. Sinha of A. C. College, Jalpaiguri for his inspiring me in this work and to Sri Subhomoy Roy who helped me in translating some Bengali versions into English.

Last but not the least comes my wife, Sukriti, who took the lion's share of household activities only to enable me to devote myself to studies and collections to this end. She has been an endless inspiration to me.

Krishna Chandra Deb
(Krishna Chandra Deb)