PREFACE

This research work intends to show how Soviet Union and China in the past and Russia and China at present faced ups and downs in their bilateral relations. Despite being the followers of same communist ideology which gives call for all communist countries to unite, Soviet Union and China had a bitter relationship throughout 1960s and 1970s and considered each other as enemy number one. But in the present day world politics, they are considered allies and strategic partners.

The present research work mainly tries to deal with Russia-China relations in the post-Soviet period. Even after disintegration of Soviet Union, Russia with a territory of more than 17 million square km. is the world’s largest country while China with more than 1.3 billion people is the most populous country in the world. The research covers the period from 1991 to 2007. However as and when required to substantiate an argument, some later developments have been also discussed.

Chapter one deals with the historical background of Russia-China relations. It gives a broad view of how they managed their co-operation despite the presence of ideological differences. In 1950, just after a month of the establishment of People’s Republic of China (PRC), USSR signed the Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Co-operation with it. The first half of 1950s could be termed as honeymoon period between the two. However differences started surfacing up in the second half of 1950s and early 1960s mainly over ideological issues. These tensed relations finally culminated into border clashes between USSR and China. However in late 1980s relations between the two returned to normalcy, especially after Gorbachev visited China in 1989. After the disintegration of Soviet Union, Russia is no longer follows communist ideology in its foreign policy and it is national interest which is the guiding light to the new Russia.

Chapter two attempts to analyze the areas of common concern and divergent views on various issues of national and international importance. Among the issues on which both Russia and China have similar views includes separatism, religious fundamentalism, opposition to US hegemonistic policy and humanitarian intervention. Both countries favour multipolar world based on just and equal international order etc. Issues where both countries have divergent view
includes extensive illegal Chinese migration to the Russian Far East and Siberia, cultural divide, China’s reluctance to accept Russia as a regional hegemon in Central Asia and conflict of interest in the region.

Chapter three provides detailed and systematic account of Russo-China economic relations and defence co-operation with the help of tables. Russian arms sale to China accounts for major portion of bilateral trade between the two. Russia provides the state-of-art weapons to China at the reasonable cost without any strings attached.

Chapter four deals with Russo-China relations in the context of Central Asia with special emphasis on SCO. Russia considers Central Asia as its backyard and enjoyed the role of regional hagemon in the region. China is investing extensively in the Central Asia to meet its ever growing energy quest for oil and natural gas and has emerged as the largest donor to Central Asia. SCO is created to counter US and NATO’s influence in the region as well as to establish stability in the region and to fight terrorism. This chapter also includes the discussion regarding former Russian Prime Minister Yevegeny Primakov’s dream of Russia-China-India Triangle.

Chapter five, which is conclusion, sums up the issues discussed in this research.