Soviet-US relations influenced the course of post-war international politics. The politics represented by them dominated world politics to the extent that the post World War II phase was christened the "Bipolar World". Even the recent concepts of multi-polar and unipolar world by no means overshadow the decisive role played by Soviet-US relations. A study of their relations would, therefore, form an important study of international politics. Keeping in view the importance of Soviet-US relations, we have undertaken this study that covers the period from Khrushchev to Gorbachev, i.e. 1956 to 1990.

In the present study we have taken into account different events of Soviet-US relations, the negotiations and talks they had on bilateral issues and their impact on world politics. We have endeavoured to introduce the subject in its historical setting in the first Chapter. In this Chapter Lenin's understanding of imperialism, based on theories of colonialism and developing ideas of peaceful coexistence, has been discussed along with Stalin's understanding of imperialism in the context of Soviet-US relations up to World War II. The post World War phase eventually led to the formation of the two antagonistic military alliances in the form of NATO and Warsaw Pact, vying with each other to establish their supremacy.
In the second Chapter the emergence and formation of the thesis of "peaceful coexistence", as propounded by Khrushchev in his address to the 20th Congress of the CPSU, which helped lessen the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union, has been discussed. However, this was superficial, as it was evident from the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Therefore, the Cuban Missile Crisis, from the Soviet point of view, has been assessed. Immediately after the Cuban Missile Crisis, there was a rift between the two socialist giants—USSR and China—in the context of their relationship with the USA, which eventually propelled the Soviet Union in establishing closer relations with non-aligned countries. This has been dealt with at length in the second Chapter.

The continuity and change in Soviet foreign policy after Brezhnev's succession to the post of general secretary of the CPSU in 1964 has been treated in the third Chapter. This Chapter also questions the status of the theory of peaceful coexistence after the escalation of war in Southeast Asia, i.e. Vietnam.

SALT II and the arms build up, particularly by the Reagan Administration and Reagan's highly advanced and ambitious project—SDI—has been discussed in the fourth Chapter. As a result of this arms build up, Soviet-US relationship vis-a-vis their relations with and role in the Third World conflicts has been assessed. This discussion
includes Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and its negative impact on Soviet-US relationship.

As has been pointed out earlier, Soviet foreign policy underwent a sea-change in the post Brezhnev period. This era saw the emergence of Gorbachev's proposals of 'New Thinking' and 'Mutually Interdependent' world which changed Soviet theoretical perspective of world imperialism and peaceful coexistence. This has been discussed in the final Chapter. INF Talks, reduction of international tension, Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan along with an analysis of increasing Soviet-US bilateral relations forms the core of this Chapter as well as that of the study.

The sixth Chapter sums up Soviet-US debates and concluded this study.