

The Nexus between Foreign Policy and Internal Crisis of Sri Lanka (1980 to 1990)

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Abstract –The study focuses on the crisis in national security of Sri Lanka in the 1980s. During the period of 1980 to 1990, the UNP government maneuvered the policies to attract foreign aid and investment to gain economic benefits which marked a sudden change in the country's foreign policy towards a pro-western stance. Further, during the time, a prolonged ideological dispute between Sinhala and Tamil political elites resurfaced as a result of the TULF's open demand for an independent state for the Tamil-speaking community, going beyond their demand for regional autonomy. The rise of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) and violence associated with Black July of 1983 made ethnic conflict a deep crisis in the country. Highlighting the ethnic crisis and disapproval of Sri Lanka's foreign policy, India intervened in the issue and became a part of the crisis. The main objective of the current study was to analyse President Jayewardene's foreign policy and his approach to ethnic issue that created a problem in the national security of Sri Lanka in the 1980s. The problem was analysed using human-state dualism, and the study argues that the worsening of ethnic crisis coupled with Sri Lanka's pro-western foreign policy attracted an Indian intervention to the issue marking a nexus between the foreign policy and the internal crisis in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: India, Sri Lanka, Foreign Policy, Internal Crisis