

ABSTRACT

The study focuses on the internal crisis in the Sri Lanka covering the period of 1980 to 1989, the UNP government maneuvered the policies to attract foreign aid and investment to gain economic benefits which marked a sudden change in countries foreign policy towards the pro-Western stance. Further, during the time, prolonged ideological disputes between Sinhalese 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 demands for regional autonomy. The rise of the Tamil militant groups and violence associated with Black July of 1983 made ethnic conflict a deep crisis in the country, however, because of its multiple links, it breached Sri Lanka's territorial boundaries and became an issue in sub-continental politics. Highlighting the ethnic crisis and the disapproval of Sri Lanka's foreign policy, India intervened in the issue and became a part of the crisis. Consequently, the issue led to widespread violence in both the North and in the South of the country against the legitimate Government, pushing the country towards anarchy and chaos. The main objective of the study was to analyse President JR Jayewardene's foreign policy and his approach to ethnic issue that created a problem with the national security of Sri Lanka in 1980s. The problem was analysed using the Barry Buzan's comprehensive security concept on individual-state dualism and the study argues that the worsening 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 internal crisis in Sri Lanka.