

**SUPER POWERS AND THE WEST ASIAN  
CRISIS OF 1967**

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PREFACE

## P\_R\_E\_F\_A\_C\_E

United States and the Soviet Union were involved in the West Asian Crisis from its very emergence. As both played an important role in the creation and survival of the Jewish State of Israel, their policies played an important role in determining Arab-Israeli relations. The collapse of Anglo-French influence in West Asia, after the Suez Crisis, prompted both the super powers to compete, in giving economic and military aid to the countries in the region, to build up a military and political presence. The threat of direct confrontation, over a regional issue, which was not of vital importance to the super powers, further prompted them to pursue a policy of political and economic competition qualified by continuous search for the possibilities of stabilizing their relationship.

When the West Asian Crisis deepened in May 1967, both the super powers stressed the need for political settlement and advised the Arabs and Israel to refrain from a military solution. At the same time, there were conflicts of interests and differences in priorities amongst them. The Arab-Israeli war of 1967 completely changed the dimensions of the crisis as it threatened world peace because of the involvement of super powers. The West Asian crisis of 1967 exemplified the tendency of the super powers to move towards joint crisis

management as it threatened their direct involvement.

The present study aims at a comparative assessment of role and behaviour of the super powers during and after the crisis to avoid direct confrontation among themselves and arrive at some lasting solution to the problem through their respective client governments. In assessing super powers' behaviour and role in the crisis, it appears that the super powers were motivated primarily by their desires to maintain their credibility as super powers, capable of defending the interests of their clients and to avoid direct military confrontation with each other.

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