

Journal of Asian and African Studies Vol. 22 (1987) pp. 156-174

MRS. INDIRA GANDHI AND INDIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES: AN ERA OF EROSION

R. V. R. CHANDRASEKHARA RAO

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, U.S.A.

Nehru was an outstanding institution builder. Despite his serious differences with the conservative justices of the Supreme Court, Nehru respected their authority and nurtured both the party and the governmental level institutions. In contrast, Indira Gandhi was interested in building only micro-level institutions and depended mainly on the bureaucracy to implement her policies. She tried to control the judiciary through politically motivated promotions of justices and by constitutional amendments. She also sought to subordinate bureaucracy to her own will and used the governor's office to exercise control over state governments. It was during the Emergency that a serious erosion of institutional structure took place and her son Sanjay became the center of extra-constitutional authority. She tried to rectify the situation after her return to power in 1980 but the damage was already done.

Journal of Asian and African Studies Vol. 22 (1987) pp. 175-192

INDIAN SECURITY AND DEFENSE POLICIES UNDER INDIRA GANDHI ASHOK KAPUR

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada

Since independence, two contradictory tendencies, namely, utopian and power politics have been evident in India's defense and security policies. While Nehru placed emphasis, peaceful resolution of international conflict, neglected the role of military power and so, Indian security needs through diplomatic means, the 1962 border war with China left India humiliated and his security policy in disarray. During the period of his two successors, Shastri and Indira Gandhi, Indian elites emphasized the role of military power to safeguard India's vital interests; a utopian approach became peripheral. Despite Indira's in-house training in this use of statecraft, she did not have a clear perception of India's long-term security needs. Either she depended upon bureaucratic advice to achieve short-term security needs or she took vital security decisions to enhance her personal power and popularity. During this peril, an enhancement of India's military and defense capabilities took place on an inertial basis rather than due to Indira Gandhi's initiatives. Despite India's victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan, her thoughtless action in Punjab weakened India's security.

Journal of Asian and African Studies Vol. 22 (1987) pp. 193-216

INDIAN ECONOMY DURING MRS. GANDHI'S REGIME ASHOK BHARGAVA

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater, U.S.A.

Purist economists may argue against studying the impact of the personality of a political leader on the state of the economy of a nation. However, it is hard to deny the interact between the economic and the political systems. Indira Gandhi held power for a long enough period to leave an impact on her country's economy. Slowly but steadily, she move some of the policies adopted by her predecessors. Even though during the early regime the public sector continued to grow, in the later period she liberalized the economy gave a considerable free hand to the private sector. Populist programs and policies were replaced by pragmatism. India underwent an agricultural revolution and its technological trained power became the largest in the Third World. Her employment policies were only partially successful and despite her emphasis on growth with equity, a substantial percentage lived in poverty. Parallel economy grew at a faster rate than in the past and planned economic develop-