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**Title of the Thesis:** Relevance of 'Soft Power' as an Instrument of India's Foreign Policy

### **ABSTRACT**

As countries compete for dominance in the international platform, and with India in the race, efforts are underway in the Indian quarters to solicit for tools that will eventually ensure India's proceed back onto the world stage and win back its lost grandeur. Considering this backdrop, the present study seeks to assert that India's soft power is veritably its preeminent strength, and the application of which as a foreign policy tool will consequently enhance its intangible standing in the world scenario.

The main arguments of the study have been analytically substantiated in the various chapters of the thesis. Firstly, clarification of the newly coined concept □ soft power □ has been undertaken, so as to abridge all the ambiguities associated with the term and its relevance. For this, an interdisciplinary approach has been brought to use, by examining in contrast concepts and theories related to soft power. Second, India's foreign policy trends from periods much before its independence to the present date have been discussed, also while evaluating why and how soft

power can and should become a viable tool for the Indian foreign policy makers to implement. Third, India's multitudinous soft power resources that goes on to showcase the genius and majesty of its esoteric culture among other things, has been discussed in detail, and further substantiated by a survey of foreign nationals, Indian academicians and diplomats about their perspective on India and its foreign policy. Fourth, the use of soft power by India's several Ministries and Institutions along with the efforts of the individuals has been analyzed and the need for umpteen efforts conveyed. Fifth and Sixth, Chinese efficient use and the United States of America's underestimation of soft power resources have been critically analyzed and a case for India to learn from the two countries has been put forward. And lastly the thesis concludes with a critical note, and additionally with the explanation that the inclusion of soft power as an instrument of India's foreign policy will categorically facilitate its standing, and also provide it with potent leverage, which its hard power resources have failed for it to achieve.

All inclusive, the hypothesis of the study has been very methodically proved, and a significant contribution to the sparse literature on Indian soft power accomplished.