



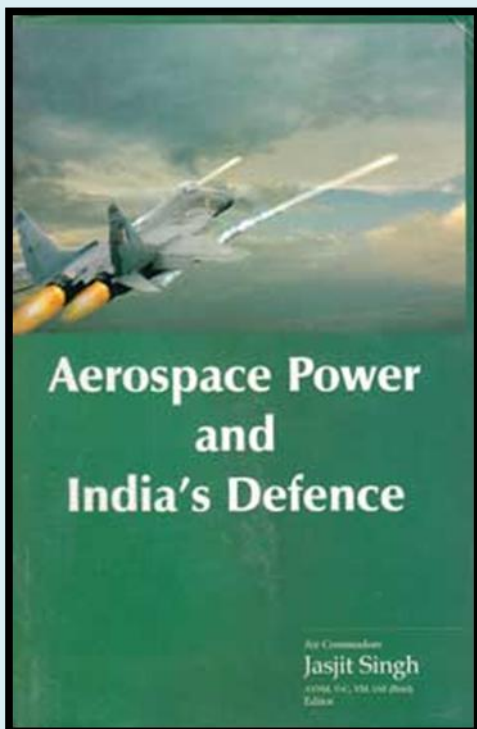
Centre for Air Power Studies

AEROSPACE POWER AND INDIA'S DEFENCE

Editor: Air Commodore Jasjit Singh

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Air power has had a profound on defence of nations ever since it came into being a little over a century ago. The reason is fairly simple. Air power (and now increasing aerospace power), can influence and interfere with the operations of land forces as well as the Naval forces. But they cannot do so to air power; and hence the inevitable central struggle has to be between the air powers of countries in conflict. Where a country loses its ability to acquire, possess and, employ aerospace power, it becomes a hostage to that of the adversary. This is the reason that aerospace power intrinsically has a strategic influence in modern world.

But by its very nature, aerospace power operations at the upper frontiers of ever higher technology. In trun this also implies high costs that most countries cannot afford; and hence it can be situated only in the economic and technological strength of a country. At the same time, unlike land warfare and naval warfare which draw upon centuries of experiances, air power and employment of aerospace power has existed for a comparatively short span of time. Consequently there have been difficulties in grasping its true potential and the reality of its limits and capabilities which has created its own specialised roles, missions and dynamics.

History of the past century; and even more so in recent decades, shows that aerospace power plays a crucial role in defence and foreign policy of nations. Contrary to conventional wisdom, air power cannot win wars, but no modern war can be won without it. The fact that it essentially operates away from the public view and mostly even that of land and naval forces, handicaps.

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This volume put together by professionals examines the various aspects and factors that go into the shaping and employment of aerospace power in India's defence and explain its complexities to enable a broader understanding of the peculiar nature of aerospace power by the professional as well as the general reader. A must for anyone interested in national defence and the role of economy, technology and air and space power in enhancing its effectiveness.

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