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**A STUDY RELATED TO THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
RAYAS OF VIJAYANAGARA AND THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNORS.**

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Abstract

The history of Vijayanagara empire occupies periods of well over three centuries from 1336-1650 A.D. It marks the culmination of the achievements, political and cultural life of the people of South India, when they had not fallen under foreign domination. The empire at its greatest extent covered practically the whole of the modern presidency of Madras, (the present Chennai) the Indian states in the area included and extended for a time to Ceylon and parts of Orissa. The Vijayanagara empire had to pursue a vigorous and vigilant diplomatic policy calculated to strengthen its position Hemmed in by the Muslims on the north, the Gajapatis, on the north east the frontiers of the empire and by the Portuguese on the coastal regions on the west and the east, from the beginning of the 16th century. The Vijayanagara kings had a difficult task, of course, religious fanaticism and racial prejudice to some extent influenced their relations with the Muslims, but it must be said that the Vijayanagara kings did not fall below the standards set up by the kings of ancient India in their diplomatic policy. One of the striking features of their diplomatic policy was the maintainance of frontier governorships.
