Conventional Studies on Security confined themselves to the defence capabilities of a country against territorial aggression. The focus, however, changed as the contemporary approach took into consideration the non-military threats emanating from within the state.

The present study takes a holistic view of security and focusses on the military and non-military threats to India and Nepal and their efforts to deal with them through security arrangements viz. the Tripartite Agreement on Gurkha Recruitment, The Treaty of Peace and Friendship, Arms Assistance Agreement and the various military missions sent to Nepal like IMM, IMTAG, IMLG to re-organise Nepalese Army and the courses offered to RNA officials in India, thus, establishing military linkages.

The relationship between India and Nepal is guided by the geo-politics of the region. Nepal lies on the northern frontier of India and its border on the South extends till the plains of India. The geographical contiguity of Nepal with India makes the former lie within the geo-strategic perimeter of the latter.

Nepal’s border on the north faces the Tibetan region of China. There are eighteen passes in the Sino - Nepal boundary of which two passes, Kuti and Kerong, are under the Chinese suzerainty since 1792. As the 100 kilometer
long Nepal - India border is an open one, the attack on Nepal can bring an enemy nearer to India's heartland.

The communist takeover of China in 1949 and its subsequent military intervention in Tibet in 1950 alarmed India and Nepal and led to review their security requirements in relation to the northern border. For instance, the establishment of border checkposts in the Nepal - Tibet border and the Indian wireless operators to gather coded intelligence messages from Tibet.

The present study analyses China as the extra-regional factor in Indo-Nepal relations. It was not only the ideological differences with China that alarmed India but also the Chinese efforts to undermine Indian security interests in Nepal through economic assistance and undertaking of road construction projects in Terai. Much to the chagrin of India, Nepal also developed diplomatic relations with China in 1955, under King Mahendra's rule, and tried to assert its independence and sovereignty. Accordingly Nepal adopted strategies of neutrality, non-alignment and distancing with India.

The study analyses the Indo-Nepal relations from the pattern of Small State-Dominant State relationship. Strictly speaking Nepal doesn't fall into the category of a small state as per the United Nations Institute for Training and Research which accepts population of less-than one million as the criteria for a small state. But considering its size, GNP, trade and defence capabilities Nepal stands as a small state against India.
There is no dearth of work done commendably on Indo-Nepal relations emphasising Nepal’s importance to India due to geographical proximity (Joshi and Rose, 1966; Narayan, 1970; Rose, 1971; Muni, 1973, 1977; Tribhuvan Nath, 1975; Jha, 1975, 1980; Dharmadasani, 1976; Rahul, 1978, 1985; Rose and Scholz, 1980; Kumar, 1980; Baral, 1988, 1993). Certain writers have analysed Indo-Nepal relations by bringing China as an extra-regional influence in their relationship (Ramakant, 1976, 1988; Ghoble, 1986; Prasad, 1989) and a few studies have highlighted the Indian security concerns in the Himalayan frontier due to the Chinese invasion of Tibet (Kavic, 1967; Mullick, 1971; Hussain, 1977; Victor, 1990). However, very few critical articles (Muni, 1971, 1977; Upreti, 1991) and books (Muni, 1992) directly deal with Indo-Nepal security arrangements. The present research work attempts to study not only the security arrangements between India and Nepal but also the socio-economic, trade relations and the domestic compulsions which led to the evolution, consolidation and erosion of the arrangements. If Nepal refuses to accept the treaties, arrangements concerning strategic interests, its impact on both the countries and the policy options to India are also dealt with. The study also looks into the emergence of new threat perceptions between the two countries and their efforts to solve them.

The present study is divided into six Chapters. Introducing the concept of security in South Asia, the first Chapter gives a historical background of the study. Nepal’s importance as a buffer between British India and China or
Czarist Russia and the former's attempt to curtail southwards expansion of Nepal through Anglo-Nepal War (1815) and its culmination in the Treaties consolidating British strategic interests in the north through the Treaty of Segouli and Treaty of Peace and Friendship has been dealt with.

The focus of the Second Chapter is on the evolution of Indo-Nepal security arrangements under King Tribhuvan and independent India. It deals with the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, the Indian Military Mission to Nepal and the establishment of checkposts in the northern frontier.

The third chapter analyses Indo-Nepal security arrangements under King Mahendra's rule who established diplomatic relations with China. The chapter also attends to events like Sino-India war and its impact on security arrangements. The reasons Nepal attempted to diversify on defence and trade related matters and called for withdrawal of Indian Military Liaison Group and Border checkposts are also highlighted in this chapter.

Chapter four pays attention to king Birendra's foreign policy and how it led to erosion of Indo-Nepal security arrangements, for example, zone of peace proposal, Nepal's import of arms from China, giving road construction projects to latter near terai and their impact and implications on security arrangements between India and Nepal.

Chapter five deals with the emergence of new threats to India and the validity of existing security arrangements to deal with them.
As a historical, comparative, analytical study, it is based on primary sources such as, government reports, documents, speeches of the leaders, parliamentary debates and the secondary sources through review of literature from texts, journals, magazines, newspapers, seminar papers etc. A field study was conducted in Kathmandu during April-June 1994 to acquire first hand information on the subject through interviews with prominent statesmen, political leaders, bureaucrats, journalists and serving and retired Gurkha soldiers and British soldiers of the British Army.