This thesis is basically a study of political system of Singapore. Though comparatively far smaller in both size and population than the other countries in South-East Asia, with the exception of Brunei in the context of population, Singapore is the most developed country in the region. Based along the international sea route from the Indian ocean to South China sea, Singapore occupies an important strategic position. Its deep water harbour makes it a natural outlet for the products of Malaysia, Indonesia and other South-East Asian states.

After independence in August 1965, Singapore adopted the British model of Parliamentary democracy. Democracy is often characterised by free and fair elections, existence of opposition parties, freedom of press, enjoyment of human rights and so forth. But in Singapore in all the elections held between 1965-1980 the People's Action Party (PAP) won all the seats without a single opposition member getting into the Parliament. The PAP adopted measures which tended to eliminate opposition parties. For its political consolidation, the PAP used its "ideology of pragmatism and survival" in order to legitimise oppressive policies of the government while emphasising the necessity of economic development. PAP's achievements in the field of economy ensured the promotion of
political stability in such a manner that it blocked the rise and growth of an effective opposition so vital for the functioning of a democracy. Emphasis on economic development increased the importance of an administrator who played an important role in the implementation of government's policies. Absence of opposition reduced the role of a politician to that of an administrator resulting in the emergence of an "administrative state".

The study is an attempt to analyse the factors that led to the dominance of one party in Singapore. It also attempts to examine the measures taken by the government to eliminate opposition. It also analyses the factors that led the Singaporeans to vote for the PAP candidates in all the general elections.

The study has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter is introductory in nature. The constitutional developments that led to self-government, evolution of party system in Singapore, merger of Singapore with the Federation of Malaysia and the factors that led to the separation and independence of Singapore in 1965 have been explored. The second chapter deals with the constitutional developments in Singapore from 1965 to 1980. The third chapter is devoted to the study of party system, electoral politics and role of opposition parties. The fourth chapter makes an analysis of the nature of polity, the nature of democracy and reasons for the emergence of an "administrative state". The fifth chapter
makes a comparative study of the constitutional provisions of Malaysia and Singapore. The nature and role of political parties and political processes in both the countries are also compared. The last chapter is the concluding chapter in which major findings of the thesis are discussed.

The study is descriptive and analytical and is based on primary and also secondary sources where necessary.