Estonia is the smallest state in the Baltic region whose entire territory is around 18,370 square miles. However, political developments in Estonia have always attracted the world's attention. Like other Baltic States Latvia and Lithuania, it also had to face colonial rule for many centuries. Therefore, political developments of Estonia could be analyzed properly within the framework of entire colonial history of this region. After centuries of foreign domination by Danes, Germans, Swedes, Poles, and Russians, Estonian leaders declared independence from the Russian empire on 24 February 1918. An unstable but democratic parliamentary system operated from 1919 until 1934 when acting president Konstantin Päts seized power and dissolved Parliament. In 1940, the USSR annexed Estonia, making it the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic (Estonian SSR). The German army invaded Estonia in 1941, ruling it until 1945.

Significant changes came after Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the USSR. In fall 1987, the policies of Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (restructuring) provided the opportunity to discuss openly various economic, environmental, and historical issues in Estonia for the first time. The Popular Front, an organization dedicated to bringing about progressive changes and unaffiliated with the Communist Party, was established in April 1988. A constitutional amendment adopted in February 1990 stripped the Communist Party of its leading role in Estonian society. Following the disintegration of Soviet Union, Estonia could achieve full independence in 1991.

Since independence, Estonia has been engaged in taking the necessary steps to define and to establish its statehood. On June 18, 1992, the Estonians approved their constitution through a nation-wide referendum. Regarding the political system, it followed a western model of democracy with multiparty political system. It also followed a pro-western policy in foreign relations. However, in foreign affairs, Estonia has been following constant pro-western policies in order to counter Russian
influence forever. It has also joined NATO and European Union which has become a continuous hurdle for Russia to maintain its supremacy in the region.

The First Chapter, which is introductory in nature deals with the historical background of political developments in Estonia, it will also cover the entire colonial history because like other Baltic States-Latvia and Lithuania, it also had to face colonial rule for many centuries. The political developments in Estonia could be analyzed properly within the framework of entire colonial history of this region. It is essential because without covering the colonial history, political developments would be incomplete.

The Second Chapter deals with Soviet disintegration and evolution of multiparty system in Estonia. It will cover how it regained its independence from Soviet Union, and also building up constitutional state structures. In 1992, Estonia adopted a constitution with a nation-wide referendum. The constitution establishes that Estonia is an independent and free democratic republic, wherein the supreme power is vested in the people. In 1992, there was parliamentary election in Estonia under which a citizenship law was introduced in Estonia. During this election, various political parties formed but not a single party got the majority to form a government. It also deals how it rebuilds its state and government.

The Third Chapter deals with the Constitutional development and the emergence of a multiparty system in Estonia, 1992-1995. It will cover the constitutional foundations, features of the new constitution, and democracy building. It also gives a glimpse of the elections held, government and political conditions, formation of political parties. Economic development was progressive, leading to the introduction of its own national currency, the Kroon. Also, many Free Trade Agreements with foreign countries were signed, expanding its economy. But, it had to face some problems regarding Citizenship. Estonia’s foreign policy was inclined towards the West.
The Fourth Chapter deals with the consolidation of western influence in Estonia during the period 1994-2004. It tells us how much Estonia was influenced by the Western ideological structures, i.e., democracy and capitalism. Both before and after independence, Estonia's foreign policy had a strong Western orientation. It shows the transition of the Estonian economy into a dynamic one. It covers Estonia's struggle for the membership of international organizations like European Union and NATO. It also gives a brief preview of the elections held during this period. This chapter finally tries to bring out the areas of major security concerns for Estonia and its consolidation.

The Fifth chapter is the conclusion, which sums up the total research work.