This Thesis attempts to analyse and study the process of militarization and its impact on human rights in Southeast Asia with special reference to the Philippines during the period of 1972 - 1986. In this study an attempt has been made to critically examine Marcos’s rule and policies which led to militarization in the Philippines. The study further examines how an authoritarian and repressive regime undermines the democratic process and people’s participation in order to remain in power.

The research was mainly based on the best available documents and field research supplemented by personal interviews with military officials, victims of militarization, political and human rights activists, insurgent movement leaders and also scholars who have studied Philippine politics.

The study analyses militarization of politics and presents the militarization and human rights situation in Southeast Asia with special reference to militarization in the Philippines. The historical beginnings of
militarization in the Philippines and its evolution and practice till the end of the Marcos era have been dealt with in detail. The role of the AFP, structure of the AFP, institutionalisation of martial law, the perpetuation of the national security syndrome in the Philippines, etc., have also been analysed. Various factors which contributed to the increase of militarization in the Philippines and the impact of militarization on human rights, etc., are also discussed in detail in this study.