## <u>ABSTRACT</u>

This paper will examine how the small states of the world that have chosen not to develop armed forces defend their sovereignty and national interests. It will use a small number of case studies incorporating historical background with contemporary issues and the non-military methods that are used to protect these states and advance their interests. The paper highlights the importance of the existing global order, which recognises sovereign states as equals, together with the relationship between sovereign equality, alliances and demilitarisation.