

and bomber squadrons of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Small states use the international system to safeguard their territory and interests, they use alliances to bolster their positions when faced with larger threats and they use demilitarisation to eliminate the threat that armies pose to their own people. These concepts of sovereignty, alliance and demilitarisation are interlinked and underpinned by the international system. The current UN based system of sovereign states is the overarching framework within which sit alliances and regional security arrangements. These alliances and an ordered international system create an environment where a nation can demilitarise without risking conquest or collapse. It is the international system therefore which is both the greatest guarantor of security for small states and the greatest threat if that system is changed.

Small states will always need to be agile and use the systems of larger states to their advantage. In this Liechtenstein offers a lesson to other small states. Of the over 300 states represented at the 1792 meeting of the Reichstag of the Holy Roman Empire, only Liechtenstein remains. Liechtenstein represents the pinnacle of what a small state can achieve. Through use of the international system, diplomacy and guile Liechtenstein navigated through Napoleon, Bismarck and Hitler to remain a sovereign, internationally recognised state, whose people have enjoyed 200 years of peace and prosperity in excess of their larger neighbours. It has done so without firing a shot and without a man or woman in military uniform since 1868<sup>142</sup>.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Books**

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<sup>142</sup> Beattie, 30.