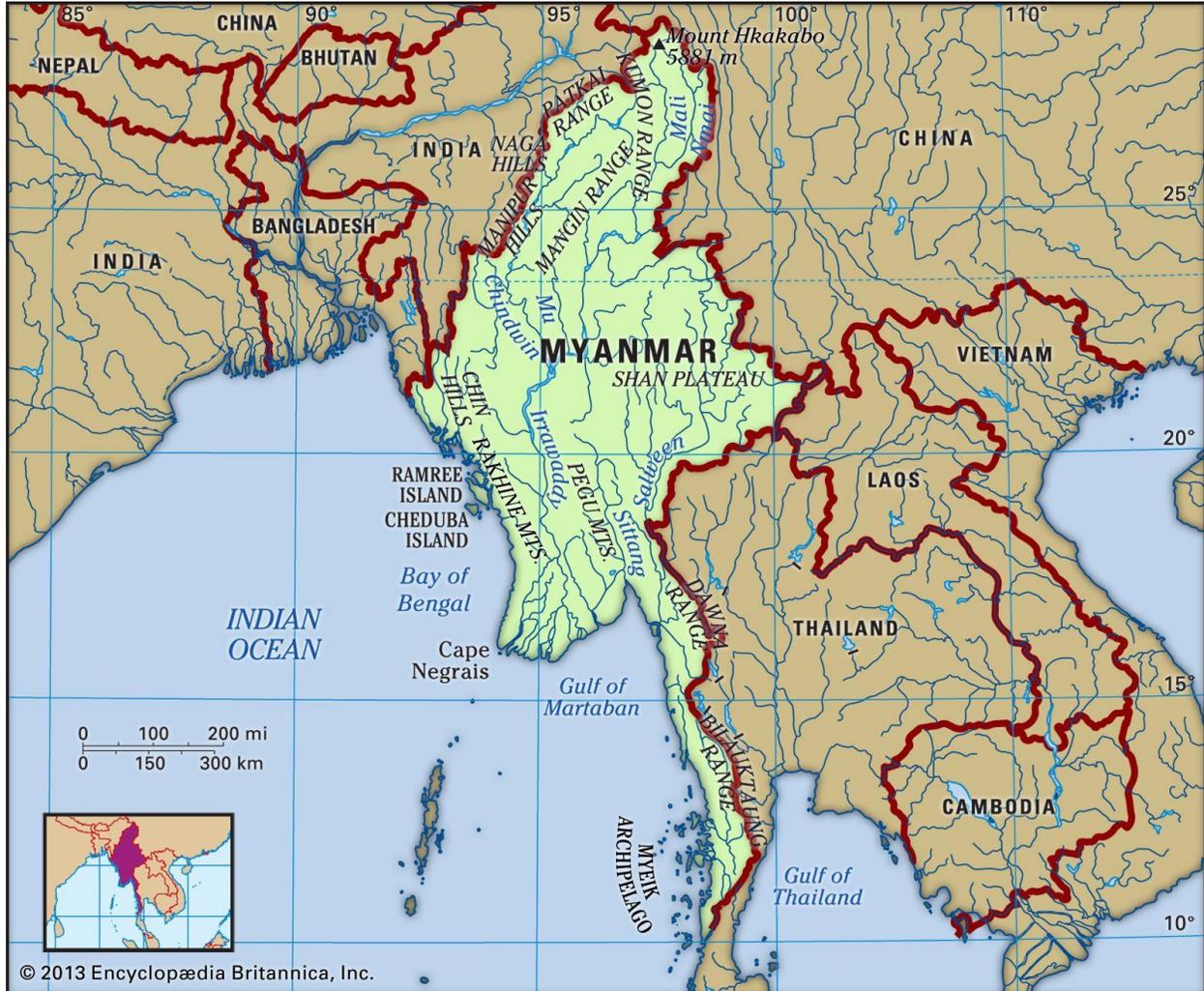


Background Box on Myanmar:



Introductory History of Myanmar:

https://www.cfr.org/background/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya?gclid=Cj0KCQjwguGYBhDRARIsAHgRm4-aXIgG0NQ_yATH8-YcW3SHBsVDQGMQBWS8rtuv3hK6g5ce6e2GdyEaAhMfEALw_wcB

https://www.cpintl.org/myanmar.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjwguGYBhDRARIsAHgRm49AOriBuXIpZzK2PXb4NwxeogwT8ptATQHUKZe8ZMMpNUwcuVbnsTsaAkVYEALw_wcB

Bordering Bangladesh, China, Laos, India, and Thailand, Myanmar is a majority Buddhist state in Southeast Asia with a population of more than 50 million people. With more than 130 ethnic nationalities, 2/3rds of its people are known as Bamar. Gaining independence from British rule in 1948, the majority of the country's history has been under military dictatorship. After a brief period of democratization in the 2010s, Myanmar's military staged a coup d'état in February 2021—overtaking Aung San Suu Kyi and her decisively elected National

League for Democracy (NLD). Since then, the people of Myanmar have faced incredible violence and oppression by the ruling regime.

Tom Andrews—Short Background of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar:

<https://law.yale.edu/tom-andrews>

Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar:

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G21/263/86/PDF/G2126386.pdf?OpenElement>

“What are we waiting for? The longer we delay, the more people die.” In his report to the UN General Assembly, UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews describes the human rights abuses occurring in Myanmar since the February 2021 coup d’état. Evidence of large-scale violence, arbitrary imprisonment, torture, denial of healthcare, airstrikes, blocking of aid, sexual abuses, restriction of press freedoms, and the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya people are the primary findings in this report.

Tom Andrews speaking to the UN Human Rights Council:

<https://youtu.be/mM2Tkyz6fZ4>

“The failure to take strong, meaningful action, will be a death sentence for untold numbers of people.” In an appeal to the UN Human Rights Council, UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews makes calls for all states to readjust and reassess their policies and behaviors toward Myanmar. With over 2,500 civilians murdered by the junta, over 1 million internally displaced people, and over 11,000 arbitrarily detained prisoners, the situation in Myanmar begs for a response by the international community.

Wai Wai Nu—Short Biography of the Founder and Executive Director of Women’s Peace Network:

<https://www.womenspeacenetWORK.org/founder-executive-director>
<https://www.womenspeacenetWORK.org/>

The Rohingya Ethnic Cleansing:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2018/4/18/who-are-the-rohingya>
<https://youtu.be/vhfb-ZsMpwg>

The Rohingya are a majority Muslim ethnic group who have historically lived in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. Since 1982, the Rohingya have been denied citizenship by the Myanmar government, making the 1.1 million Rohingya people one of the largest stateless groups in the world. Since the 1970s, the Rohingya have been persecuted and/or oppressed constantly, but a new round of violence against them beginning in 2016 has forced the international community to investigate claims of genocide. Facing indiscriminate killings, rapes, tortures, arsons, and denial of rights by the Myanmar government, more than 650,000 Rohingya have fled to neighboring Bangladesh. Others are trapped within Myanmar’s Rakhine state, not allowed to leave, and made to live in dire conditions.

Violence against Healthcare Workers in Myanmar:

<https://insecurityinsight.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2021-Myanmar-SHCC-Factsheet.pdf>

Since the coup d'état by the Tatmadaw (the Myanmar military), the people of Myanmar have been subject to mass-targeted, but also indiscriminate, violence. One group being particularly persecuted are healthcare professionals. Healthcare professionals have been subject to over 411 attacks since February 2nd, 2021, leading to the deaths of 29 workers and a near-collapse of the country's healthcare system. The military has targeted the healthcare industry, especially in pro-democratic areas, so that injured protesters may not be treated. An abnormally low number of medical staff (even pre-coup), attacks by the military, brutal COVID waves, and strikes by 90% of medical professionals have ensured a wave of preventable deaths in Myanmar and unimaginable amounts of suffering.

Losing a Generation: Tom Andrews on how Myanmar's Children are Suffering:

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Myanmar-childrensReport.pdf>

Even though systems to monitor human rights abuses have been disrupted, reports coming out of Myanmar demonstrate crimes against humanity—including mass abuses of children. Since the coup, at least: 382 children have been killed, 142 children have been tortured, and 1,400 children have been arbitrarily imprisoned. The junta has launched attacks on at least 260 schools—bombing, attacking with aircraft, and firing upon educational facilities throughout the country. Now, 7.8 million children in Myanmar are out of school, 4.5 million are food insecure, and 5 million require humanitarian assistance. This will only lead to more violence and abuse, as children in these dire conditions are often forced into conflict recruitment or human trafficking.

Myanmar's Coup—Why Now?:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55882938>

After winning the country's "freest and fairest vote seen in 25 years" in 2015, Aung San Suu Kyi and her NLD party were re-elected by the people of Myanmar in 2020. Even though the NLD won by a landslide vote, the USDP (the military-backed party) alleged claims of election fraud. Declaring a state of emergency, the military soon took over the government and returned to rule as undemocratically elected leadership. It is no coincidence that the military took over the day the NLD's second term was supposed to begin. This has sparked huge amounts of protests and backlash by the people of Myanmar.

US and Myanmar:

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-burma/>
<https://www.usaid.gov/burma/our-work>

The United States denounces the brutality of the current regime in Myanmar, and supports a “peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Burma.” On March 12, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security designated Myanmar for Temporary Protected Status—meaning that citizens of Myanmar residing in the United States could apply for protected status. USAID redirected \$42.4 million of aid away from industries that benefitted the regime, instead turning those funds toward programs that supported the citizens in need. In addition, the US assisted in the investigation and victims of the Rohingya ethnic cleansing. Since the coup, the US has had to backtrack on increasing economic cooperation with Myanmar—now, the Asian state is subject to a variety of economic sanctions.

Russia and Myanmar:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/myanmar-s-military-council-supports-russia-s-invasion-of-ukraine/6458527.html>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/27/holdstronger-togethermyanmarrussiaparademilitary-relationship>

Since the coup, Myanmar and Russia have solidified relations by increasing trade and public cooperation. After the two militaries paraded together during Myanmar’s Armed Forces Day, the junta has expressed support for Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Russia is Myanmar’s number one weapons supplier, and Myanmar offers raw materials that the increasingly isolated Russian state has had trouble acquiring.

China and Myanmar:

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/chinas-support-myanmar-further-shows-world-dividing-autocracy-versus-democracy>
<https://thediplomat.com/2022/08/whats-behind-the-china-myanmar-economic-corridor-plus-initiative/>

After initially showing caution in support for the new regime, China has now fully expressed support for the junta’s rule in Myanmar. Perhaps pressured by Russia’s increasing support for China’s neighbor, Beijing has announced that it will back the new government of Myanmar. This political association is being furthered economically—as progress toward the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and cross-border industrial zones continue.

India and Myanmar:

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/the-trouble-with-indias-twin-track-approach-to-myanmar/>
<https://www.dw.com/en/india-walks-diplomatic-tightrope-on-myanmars-military-junta/a-62685316>

Two main factors have driven India to take a more engaging diplomatic stance with the new Myanmar government: growing Chinese influence in Myanmar and border security issues.

Although its stated goal is to have a “twin-track approach”—working with the military junta and promote democracy in the state—India’s option to refuse a full relationship with the military government is dwindling as China and Russia exert growing influence in Myanmar. Additionally, India may need support from the regime in calming the border disturbances between the two states.