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# Myanmar in Crisis

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Myanmar Update Series

# Myanmar in Crisis

Living with the Pandemic and the Coup

Edited By  
Justine Chambers and Michael R. Dunford

**ISEAS** YUSOF ISHAK  
INSTITUTE

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*Cover photo:* Artwork entitled “Untitled” by Shwe Thin Moe, who painted it with these reflections:

This artwork is from my inner soul. It is not painted to be sold. I painted it because I was requested to paint. I painted it, because I want to do as I like and to paint as I like. Someone does not have to like it. All that matters is that I like it. I painted it based on what I felt in my heart. Artworks are a window into our soul. This painting is built from all the emotions and feelings I poured in it, including a deep motivation and desire to be free and peaceful. It also reflects my feelings of suffocation, sadness and poor physical and mental health. I poured all those feelings into this painting.

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The Myanmar Update is a major venue at which to present cutting-edge scholarship on political, social and economic affairs in Myanmar. Now in its third decade, it is one of only two longstanding, regularly held international conferences on the country and has consistently produced high-quality publications since the 1990s. We thank the conference speakers and participants and encourage everyone reading this volume to forge ongoing connections with local scholars that will further enhance our knowledge and understanding of Myanmar, especially as it transforms during this revolutionary period. We also acknowledge the bravery of all the conference participants who spoke from inside Myanmar in 2021, despite the hostile climate against academics and researchers collaborating with foreign institutions.

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supporting research on the country.

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY TERMS

AA	Arakan Army
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CDM	Civil Disobedience Movement
CERP	COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan
CMEC	China–Myanmar Economic Corridor
CNF	Chin National Front
CRPH	Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
DSSI	Debt Service Suspension Initiative
ERO	Ethnic Resistance Organisations
EU	European Union
FDC	Federal Democracy Charter
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTA	Free Trade Area
GAD	General Administration Department
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoM	Government of Myanmar
GSC	General Strike Committee
GSCB	General Strike Coordination Body
GSC-N	General Strike Committee of Nationalities
ICC	International Criminal Court
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (fishing)

IMF	International Monetary Fund
ICNCC	Interim Chin National Consultative Council
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
KIO	Kachin Independence Organisation
KIA	Kachin Independence Army
KSCC	Karenni State Consultative Council
<i>Kyat</i>	Myanmar's local currency
KNU	Karen National Union
LDF	Local Defence Forces
MERRP	Myanmar Economic Resilience and Reform Plan
MNDAA	Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army
MOGE	Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
MEC	Myanmar Economic Corporation
NCA	Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement
NUCC	National Unity Consultative Council
NUG	National Unity Government
NLD	National League for Democracy
NRC	National Registration Card
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PDF	People's Defence Forces
PRC	People's Republic of China
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
R2P	Responsibility to Protect
SAC	State Administrative Council
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
<i>Sit Tat</i>	Myanmar state military forces
TNLA	Ta'ang National Liberation Army
UEC	Union Election Commission
UN	United Nations

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USDP	United Solidarity and Development Party
UWSA	United Wa State Army
VTWA	Village Tract and Ward Administrator
YUG	Yangon Urban Guerrillas