

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION GIVEN TO ASYLUM OFFICERS

Asylum officers are given “Country of Origin” training, from time to time.

Attached are 23 pages about Burma, given to the officers in the year 2021.

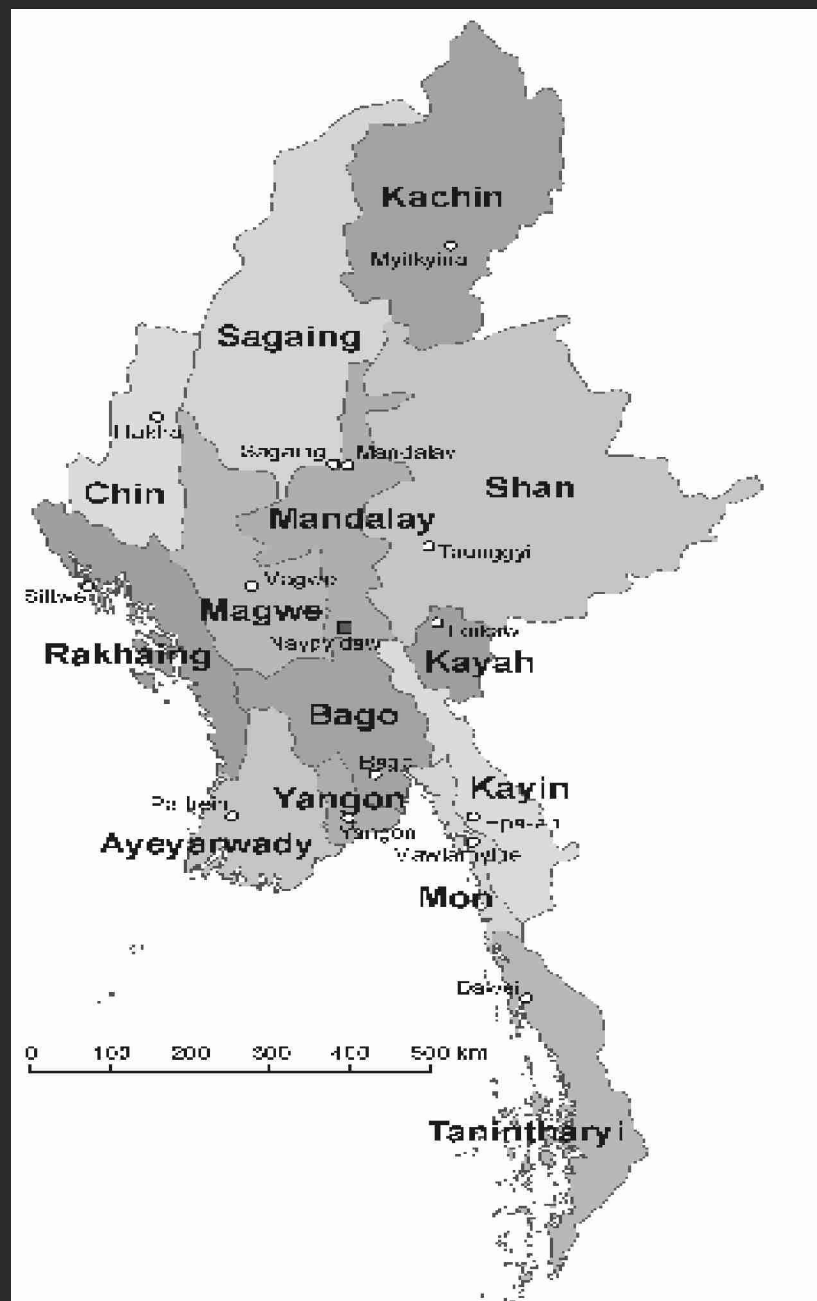
Burma Pre-Departure Briefing

- Administrative and Ethnic Geography
- History Overview (1947-2021)
- Rohingya Crisis
- Post-Coup Political Situation



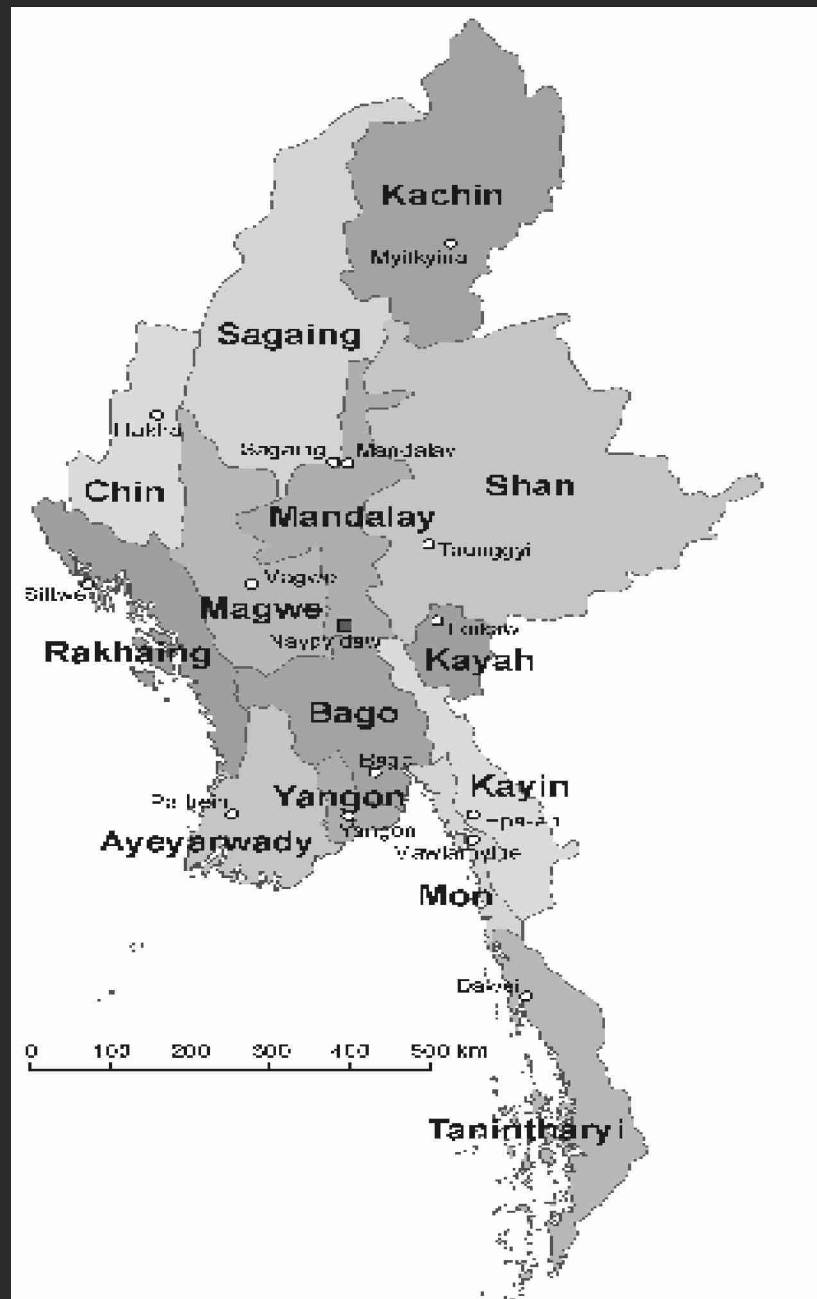
Burma

- Seven States
- Rakhaing (Arakan)
- Chin
- Kachin
- Shan
- Kayah (Karenni)
- Kayin (Karen)
- Mon



Burma

- Seven Regions
- Sagaing
- Mandalay
- Magwe
- Bago
- Yangon (Rangoon)
- Ayerawady
- Tanintharyi (Tenasserim)



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Burmese Ethnicities

Four Commonly Encountered Examples

- Burman (Bamar)
- Rakhine (Arakan)
- Chin
- Karen



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History Overview (1947-present)

- Independence to 1962 military coup
- 1988 protests and 1990 elections
- Ceasefire agreements and development of 2008 constitution
- Limited civilian government (2011-2021)



World War II & Independent Burma

- World War II
- Independence Agreement (January 1947)
- Panglong Conference (February 1947)
- Assassination (July 1947)
- Constitution (September 1947)

General Aung San



Burma Socialist Programme Party (1964-1988)

- General Ne Win

- Military-dominated party
- One-party government
- Suspended constitution of 1947. New constitution enacted in 1974.
- Dismantled federal system envisioned in Panglong Agreement
- Presided over intensified ethnic conflict



The Four Cuts



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August 1988 protest movement



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Chin National Front/Army

- March 1988:
Created in India
- 1988: military actions lead to militarization of Chin State
- Corresponding growth in the CNA's ranks.




Main armed groups in northern Burma. Areas are approximate, status of some groups changed





AREAS UNDER CONTROL OF CEASE-FIRE GROUPS

-  NDA-K
-  KIO
-  PSLA
-  KDA
-  MNDA
-  SSNA
-  UWSP
-  NDAA
-  SEA-N
-  SNPLO
-  PNO
-  KNLP
-  KNPLF

AREAS WITH PRO-GOVERNMENT MILITIAS

-  VARIOUS MILITIAS

AREAS WITH GUERRILLA WARFARE

-  SEA-SOUTH
-  ENPP

Democratic Karen Buddhist Army

- In December 1994, the DKBA was formed by former Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) soldiers.
- From its inception it was controlled by and loyal to the Junta.
- On March 11, 1998 the DKBA attacked Huay Kaloke refugee camp in Thailand.

Junta-Controlled Militias



Limited Civilian Government (2011-2021)

- November 2010 elections
- April 2012 by-elections & November 2015 elections
- 21st Century Panglong Conference
- November 2020 elections



Rohingya from Burma



Rohingya people in Rakhine (Arakan) State in Myanmar

- - Rohingya majority
- - Rohingya minority



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Who are the Rohingya?

- Muslims of Arakan State
- Arrived in Arakan State beginning in the 8th Century
- Term 'Rohingya' derives from earlier terms, but its contemporary meaning is of recent origin
- Speak a dialect of Chittagonian, itself closely related to Bengali
- Not a recognized minority under the Citizenship Act of 1982
- Mostly unable to obtain Burmese citizenship -- Stateless



Rohingya Refugees



Three Crises:

- February – July 1978
- 1991-1992
- August 2017 - present



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Conditions in Northern Rakhine State



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Burmese Authorities

- Myanmar Police Force/Border Guard Police
- Burmese army (tatmadaw)



Rohingya Organizations

- Rohingya Solidarity Organization

(approx. 1980 – 2001)

- Haraka al-Yaqin/Arakan Rohingya Solidarity Army

(2016 – present)



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Conclusions

- Rohingya – a stateless minority group in Burma
- August 2017 – historically largest Rohingya refugee crisis
- ARSA – a threat and an excuse for violence



February 2021 Coup

- State Administration Council (SAC)
- Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)
- National Unity Government (NUG)
- People's Defense Force(s) (PDF)
- New Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs)
 - Chinland Defense Force
 - Karenni Nationalities Defense Force



Recommended Readings

- [Taking Aim at the Tatmadaw: New Armed Resistance to Myanmar's Coup](#), International Crisis Group – June 28, 2021
- [Life in Hiding: Myanmar's Civil Disobedience Movement](#), The Diplomat – June 22, 2021
- [Resistance Fighters Battle Myanmar's Military in Mandalay](#), New York Times – June 22, 2021
- [A wider war spreads fast and far in Myanmar](#), Asian Times – May 19, 2021
- [Myanmar's Military Struggles to Control the Virtual Battlefield](#), International Crisis Group – May 18, 2021
- [Three Months After Coup, Myanmar Returns to the 'Bad Old Days'](#), New York Times – May 6, 2021

