



BURMA



INTRODUCTION

Burma was a province of British India until 1937 and then a self-governing colony until independence in 1948. Military governments have generally led the country since. Recent years have seen a series of reforms leading to a substantial opening of the long-isolated country.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State/Head of Government

General MIN AUNG HLAING (military takeover February 2021)

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Rangoon (Yangon); note - Nay Pyi Taw is the administrative capital

Legislature

dissolved February 2021; previously a bicameral Assembly of the Union or Pyidaungsu consists of the House of Nationalities or Amyotha Hluttaw (224 seats) and the House of Representatives or Pyithu Hluttaw (440 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 676,578 sq km

Land: 653,508 sq km

Water: 23,070 sq km

Climate

tropical monsoon; cloudy, rainy, hot, humid summers (southwest monsoon, June to September); less cloudy, scant rainfall, mild temperatures, lower humidity during winter (northeast monsoon, December to April)

Natural Resources

petroleum, timber, tin, antimony, zinc, copper, tungsten, lead, coal, marble, limestone, precious stones, natural gas, hydropower, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

prior to COVID-19 and the February 2021 military coup, massive declines in poverty, rapid economic growth, and improving social welfare; underdevelopment, climate change, and unequal investment threatens progress and sustainability planning; since coup, foreign assistance has ceased from most funding sources

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$247.2 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$4,500 (2020 est.)

Industries - agricultural processing, wood/wood products, copper, tin, tungsten, iron, cement, construction materials, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer, oil/natural gas, garments, jade and gems

Agricultural products - rice, sugarcane, beans, vegetables, milk, maize, poultry, groundnuts, fruit, plantains

Exports \$16.27 billion (2018 est.)

natural gas, clothing products, rice, copper, dried legumes (2019)

partners: China 24%, Thailand 24%, Japan 7%, Germany 5% (2019)

Imports \$14.96 billion (2018 est.)

refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, fabrics, motorcycles, packaged medicines (2019)

partners: China 43%, Thailand 15%, Singapore 12%, Indonesia 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

57.1 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.81% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Burman (Bamar) 68%,

Shan 9%, Karen 7%,

Rakhine 4%, Chinese 3%, Indian 2%, Mon 2%, other 5%

Language

Burmese (official); minority ethnic groups used their own languages

Religion

Buddhist 87.9%, Christian 6.2%, Muslim 4.3%, Animist 0.8%, Hindu 0.5%, other 0.2%, none 0.1% (2014 est.)

