

Recent Books from/on Myanmar – Nov 2019

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Biography

Transformative Women Leaders in Myanmar Society / Dr Lae Lae Maw
(et al.) (Translator) Aye Chan Aung (et al.) (Foreword) Mizzima
Myanmar: Mizzima Media, 2017
122p.
\$ 35.00/ PB
224gm.

“Transformative Women Leaders in Myanmar Society” refers to Myanmar women from various fields, who have shown their great leadership and capacities in Myanmar society. You can see that the women featured in this book have courageous character, leadership skills, great talent and international competence that arise out of the motherly attitude. You can also see their efforts for the development of the region, the country and the whole public.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666750>

Ecology/Environment

A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants of Myanmar / Norio Tanaka (et al.) (Ed)
Nobuyuki Tanaka

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia/Myanmar: Natural History Publications
(Borneo), Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environmental Conservation, 2019

vi, 113p.

Includes Index

9789838121934

\$ 30.00 / PB

266gm.

Myanmar (Burma) spans tropical evergreen, mixed deciduous, savanna and alpine vegetation types due to a distinct north–south polarity. Various kinds of aquatic vegetation are found in the country, from freshwater to marine environments. Being the largest lake of the country and one of the largest ones in Southeast Asia, Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State situated in the Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary (755 km²) established in 1999 accommodates rich biota including birds and aquatic plants. Inle Lake (116 km²) in southern Shan State is the second largest lake in Myanmar and is home to the Intha tribe, an ethnic group, which creates floating islands by using its rich aquatic plants.

Smaller scale aquatic habitats are found everywhere in the country, including ponds in Mawlamyaing (formerly Moulmein), Mon State, which houses numerous freshwater aquatic plants. The Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve in Kachin State, northern Myanmar, is a vast basin surrounded by mountains, from which multiple streams and rivers flow into the valley; many aquatic plants such as *Aponogeton*, *Cryptocoryne*, and *Hydrobryum* can be found there. Off the coast of the southernmost municipally, Tanintharyi Region in the peninsular part of Myanmar, the Mergui Archipelago is known to accommodate rich seagrass beds.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666751>

Economics/Development Studies

Becoming One: Religion, Development, and Environmentalism in a Japanese NGO in Myanmar / Chika Watanabe

Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2019

xv, 240p.

Includes Index

9780824875268

1. Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement – International
2. Non-governmental organizations – Japan.
3. Agricultural development projects – Burma.
4. Agricultural assistance, Japanese – Burma.

\$ 68 / HB

518gm.

International development programs strive not only to alleviate poverty but to transform people, aid workers and recipients alike. *Becoming One* grapples with this process by exploring the work of OISCA*, a prominent Japanese NGO in central Myanmar. OISCA's postwar origins at the intersection of Shinto, secularism, and rightwing politics, and its vision of inter-Asian solidarity and a sustainable future helped shape the organization's ideology and activities. By delving into the world of its aid workers—their everyday practices, discourses, and aspirations—author Chika Watanabe seeks to understand the NGO's political, social, and ethical effects.

At OISCA training centers, Japanese and local staff teach sustainable agricultural skills and organic farming methods to rural youth. Much of the teaching involves laboring in the fields, harvesting produce, and caring for livestock: what they can't use themselves is sold at nearby markets. Watanabe's detailed and multi-sited ethnography shows how Japanese and Burmese actors mobilize around the idea of "becoming one" with Mother Earth and their human counterparts within a shared communal lifestyle. By exploring the tension between intentions and political effects—spanning environmentalism, cultural-nationalist ideologies of "Japaneseness," and aspirations to make the world a better place—Watanabe highlights fascinating questions and both positive and negative outcomes.

Becoming One weaves together vivid descriptions of the intensive, intimate, and "muddy labor" of "making persons" (*hitozukuri*) with the wider historical resonances of these efforts, decentering common understandings of development, NGOs, and their moral and political promises. This engaging and thought-provoking book combines insights

from anthropology, development studies, and religious studies to add to our understanding of modern Japan.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=526557>

Official Publications

Census Atlas Myanmar: The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census

Nay Pyi Taw: Department of Population, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, 2014

xviii, 106p.

9789997102966

\$ 150.00/ HB

2010gm.

The 2014 Population and Housing Census - the country's first national census in 30 years – was undertaken by the Ministry of Immigration and Population with technical support from UNFPA between 30th March and 10th April 2014. 110,000 enumerators visited over 12 million households to gather data to provide social, economic and demographic characteristics of people and households for the purpose of on-going reforms, development planning and good governance. The results will be made public progressively as each stage of analysis is completed. The data will be used by the Government, universities, research centres, civil society, development partners and other data users to develop appropriate policies and programmes for the improvement of living standards of the people in Myanmar.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666752>

Selected Monthly Economic Indicators, May 2019 / Central Statistical Organization

Nay Pyi Taw: Ministry of Planning and Finance, 2019

144p.

\$ 35.00 / PB

368gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666753>

Selected Monthly Economic Indicators, June 2019 / Central Statistical Organization

Nay Pyi Taw: Ministry of Planning and Finance, 2019

144p.

\$ 35.00 / PB

368gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666754>

Politics

Myanmar's Political Transition and Lost Opportunities (2010-2016) / Ye Htut

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2019

xx, 260p.

Includes Index

9789814843577

1. Myanmar – Politics and government – 1988-

\$ 28.00 / PB

378gm.

This book is about the politics of Myanmar under the reformist president Thein Sein. For the first time since the country regained independence in 1948, he was able to enact the peaceful transfer of power from one elected government to another. But Thein Sein also lost opportunities to deliver what the people anticipated, and he failed to bring his USDP party to victory in the 2015 election. This book examines the reasons behind the lost opportunities in the transition to democracy. It draws on the author's experiences as a member of Thein Sein's cabinet as well as on extensive interviews with other cabinet members and politicians involved in the crucial events that took place between 2010 and 2016.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666755>

Secrets and Power in Myanmar: Intelligence and the Fall of General Khun Nyunt / Andrew Selth

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2019
xxviii, 248p.

Includes Index ; Selected Bibliography

9789814843775

1. Military Intelligence – Myanmar.
2. Myanmar – Armed forces.

\$ 25.00 / PB

314gm.

"No external observer knows more about Myanmar's security and intelligence apparatus than Andrew Selth. In this book he presents an account of the structure and functions of Myanmar's deep state, along with a tale of personal ambition, rivalry and ruthless power politics worthy of John Le Carre. A thoroughly educative, entertaining and intriguing read." - Professor Michael Wesley.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666756>

Myanmar's Buddhist – Muslim Crisis: Rohingya, Arakanese, and Burmese Narratives of Siege and Fear / John Clifford Holt
Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2019
xxii, 306p. ; 13 b&w illustrations, 3 maps.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9780824882112

1. Rohingya (Burmese people) – Violence against.
2. Violence – Burma – Rakhine State.
3. Islam – Relations – Theravada Buddhism.
4. Theravada Buddhism – Relations – Islam.
5. Buddhism and state – Burma.

\$ 29.99 / PB

528gm.

Myanmar's Buddhist-Muslim Crisis is a probing search into the reasons and rationalizations behind the violence occurring in Myanmar, especially the oppressive military campaigns waged against Rohingya Muslims by the army in 2016 and 2017. Over more than three years John Holt traveled around Myanmar engaging in sustained conversations with prominent and articulate participants and observers. What emerges from his peregrinations is a series of compelling portraits revealing both deep insights and entrenched misunderstandings.

To understand the conflict, Holt must first accurately capture the viewpoints of his different conversation partners, who include Buddhists and Muslims, men and women, monks and laypeople, activists and scholars. Conversations range widely over issues such as the rise of Buddhist nationalism; the sometimes enigmatic and unexpected positions taken by Aung San Suu Kyii; use of the controversial term "Rohingya"; the impact of state-sponsored propaganda on the Burmese public; resistance to narratives emanating from international media, the United Nations, and the international diplomatic community; the frustrations of local political leaders who have felt left out of the policy-making process in the Rakhine State; and the constructive hopes and efforts still being made by forward-looking activists in Yangon. Three main perspectives emerge from the voices he listens to, those of Arakanese Buddhists who are native to Rakhine (once called Arakan), where much of the conflict has taken place; Burmese Buddhists (or Barmars), who make up the vast majority of Myanmar's population; and the Rohingya Muslims, whose tragic story has been widely disseminated by the international media.

What surfaces in conversation after conversation among all three groups is a narrative of siege: all see themselves as the aggrieved party, and all recount a history of being under siege. John Holt gives voice to these

different perspectives as an engaged and concerned participant, offering both a critical and empathetic account of Myanmar's tragic predicament. Readers follow the hopes and dismay of this seasoned scholar of Theravada Buddhism as he seeks his own understanding of the variously impassioned forces in play in this still unfolding drama.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666758>
