

# Ruling Myanmar

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# Ruling Myanmar

From Cyclone Nargis  
to National Elections

Edited by  
Nick Cheesman, Monique Skidmore  
and Trevor Wilson



INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES  
SINGAPORE

First published in Singapore in 2010 by  
ISEAS Publishing  
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies  
30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace  
Pasir Panjang  
Singapore 119614

E-mail: [publish@iseas.edu.sg](mailto:publish@iseas.edu.sg)  
Website: <http://bookshop.iseas.edu.sg>

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#### ISEAS Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

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Ruling Myanmar : from cyclone nargis to national elections / edited by Nick Cheesman, Monique Skidmore and Trevor Wilson.

Based on 2009 Myanmar/Burma Update Conference organized by the Dept. of Political & Social Change, The Australian National University Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Canberra, held 17–18 August.

1. Burma—Politics and government—1988—Congresses.
2. Burma—Economic conditions—1948—Congresses.
3. Cyclone Nargis, 2008—Congresses.
4. Humanitarian assistance—Burma—International cooperation—Congresses.
- I. Cheesman, Nick.
- II. Skidmore, Monique.
- III. Wilson, Trevor.
- IV. Australian National University. Dept. of Political and Social Change.
- V. Myanmar/Burma Update Conference (2009 : Canberra, Australia)

DS530.4 B972 2009 2010

ISBN 978-981-4311-46-5 (soft cover)  
ISBN 978-981-4311-47-2 (hard cover)  
ISBN 978-981-4311-48-9 (e-book PDF)

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Cover photo: People walk away from a polling station for the constitutional referendum, May 2008. The slogan on the roof reads: "National Discipline begins at school"

Photographer/Artist: Khin Maung Win  
Courtesy of Getty Images

Typeset by Superskill Graphics Pte Ltd  
Printed in Singapore by Utopia Press Pte Ltd

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# **BACKGROUND ON ANU 2009 MYANMAR/BURMA UPDATE CONFERENCE**

Preparations are under way for the first elections in Myanmar/Burma since 1990, to be held in 2010 as part of the military regime's "Road Map for Democracy". The conditions under which the elections will be held are far from favourable, although the laws and procedures under which they will be conducted have not yet been announced. Political controls remain repressive, freedom of expression and assembly does not exist, and international access is restricted by government controls as well as sanctions. Nevertheless, is this a turning point for Myanmar/Burma? Presenters at the Australian National University 2009 Myanmar/Burma Update conference examined these questions and more. Speakers were leading experts from the United States, Japan, France, and Australia, as well as from Myanmar/Burma.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We greatly appreciate the ongoing and generous support of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), without whose financial support the 2009 Australian National University Myanmar/Burma Update Conference would not have been possible. AusAID's encouragement has gone much further than just providing financial support, and helped organizers improve the focus and structure of the conference. We are also grateful for the steadfast backing we have always received from the Department of Political and Social Change, in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, especially from the current and former Heads of Department, Paul Hutchcroft and Ed Aspinall, respectively. Finally, we thank the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore, which was once again prepared to publish the conference papers, and copy-editor John Owen for his prompt and fine copy-editing. Last but not least, this publication would not have amounted to anything without the willingness of the contributors to devote time and thought to their chapters, which makes this project worthwhile.



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## **NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

In 1989, the military regime changed the official romanized name of Burma to Myanmar and changed the names of most cities and towns from the spelling used prior to that date. Inside the country today, the revised names and spellings are used. Opponents of the regime objected to these changes and so different authors have their preferred different usages (Myanmar/Burma, Myanmar, Burma, Rangoon/Yangon, Rangoon, Yangon, etc.). In this publication, the editors have not adjusted contributors' preferences to a single consistent usage.

