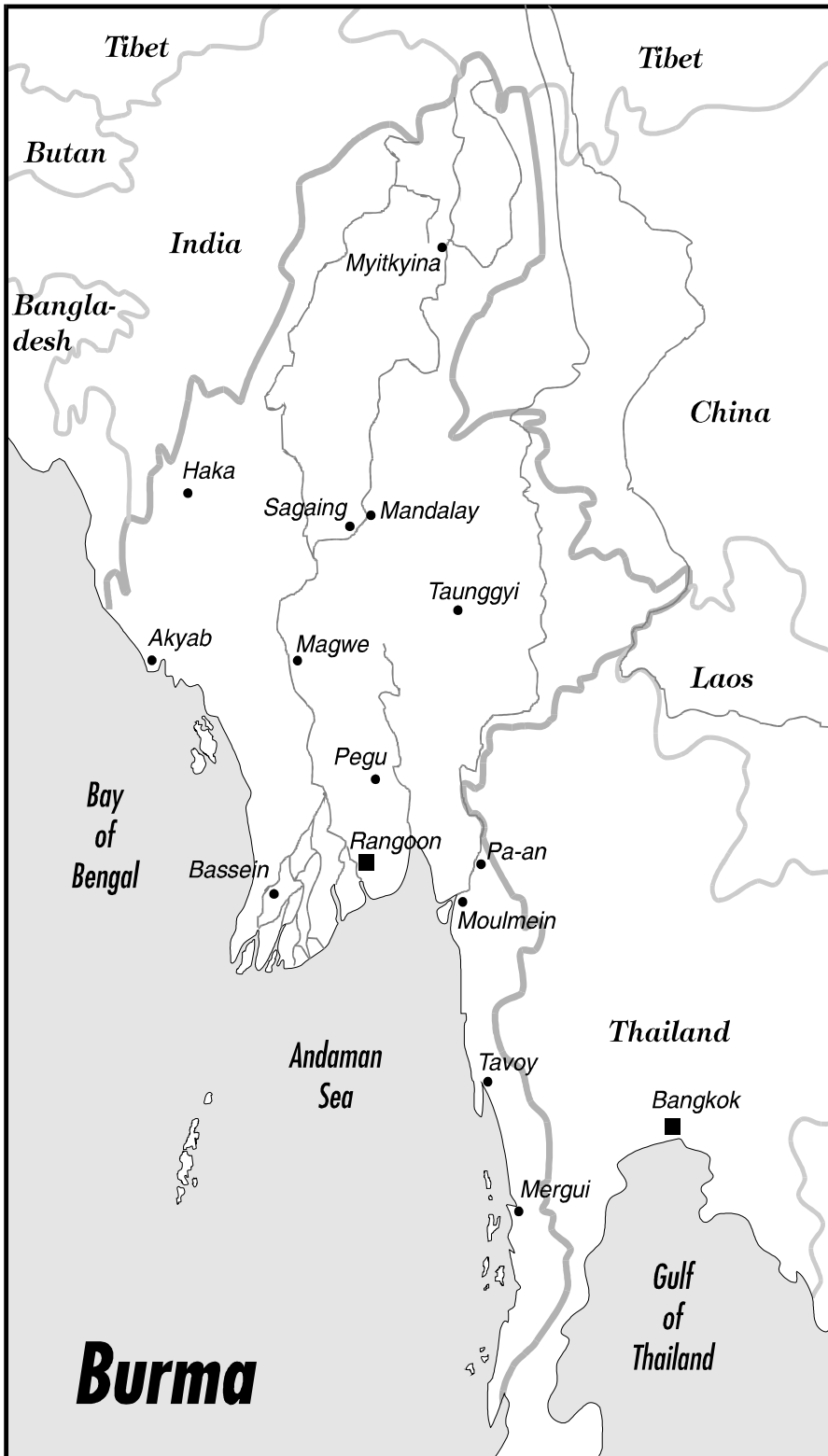


Map of Burma showing Cities of States and Divisions



Graphics by Radio Burma Group 1995

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Agriculture:	68% of workforce employed in agriculture; 15% of arable land; under 50% of potentially productive land under cultivation.
Rice exports:	3.5 million tons (1930s); 2 million tons (1962); 20,000 tons (1988).
Opium production:	1,300 tons (1988), 2,400 tons (1994) (70% of US market)
Administrative areas:	7 States (Arakan, Chin, Mon, Kachin, Karen, Kayah, Shan); 7 Divisions (Irrawaddy, Magwe, Mandalay, Pegu, Rangoon, Sagaing, Tenasserim).
Last election:	May 1990.
Next election:	Unknown.
Form of government:	Military dictatorship (State Law and Order Restoration Council since 1988, membership expanded 1992).
Government Address:	State Law and Order Restoration Council, Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Rd, Yangon, MYANMAR (mail addressed to "BURMA" will most likely not be delivered).

ETHNIC PEOPLES OF BURMA

THE 43 million inhabitants of Burma, like China and India, are made up of a diverse mixture of cultures, languages, and races, due to successive waves of migratory tribes descending from the north in ancient times, and which appears to be continuing today.

Colonisation by the British has also left its mark on the country, arbitrarily drawing political boundaries and often dissecting a single indigenous nation as occurred in the case of the Chins, whose nation is divided between Bangladesh, Burma and India.

Reliable population figures are not available, since the last attempt at any real census was conducted by the British in 1931. There is especially lacking any real statistics from the ethnic groups themselves.

Here is a brief look at the peoples of Burma, with maps and a chart from Martin Smith's 1994 "Ethnic Groups in Burma".

MON-KHMER includes Mon, Wa and Palaung: Ancestors of the Mon-Khmer ethnolinguistic group were the first recorded civilisation in Indo-China. By the 16th century, the Mon ruled much of Burma, Siam and even parts of Laos and the Shan States. In the late 18th century the Mon capital, Pegu, was finally taken by the Burmans. Mons introduced Buddhism to the Burmans, and the Burmese script is based largely on the Mon. Yet in recent history the Mons have seen their language and culture being eroded by successive Burmese governments, and no less so by the

SLORC.

TAI includes Shan minorities: The Shans came to the hills and plains of northeast Burma in the 9th or 10th century, at about the same time as the Burmans, as part of the major Tai immigration from China to Southeast Asia. They controlled much of central Burma during the 14th and 15th centuries, and even while the British ruled, they maintained a great deal of autonomy under their Sawbwas.

TIBETO-BURMAN includes Akha, Arakanese (Rakhine), Burman, Kachin, Lisu, Naga and Zo (Chin): The Burmans make up the majority ethnic group in Burma. The Arakanese are also Buddhist and, like the Mon and Shan, once had an independent kingdom which was involved in frequent wars with the Burmans as well as with Indian and Mongol invaders. Arakan was only conquered by the Burmans in the late 18th century. The Kachin and Zo (Chin) live mainly in the hills near the Chinese and Indian borders.

KAREN includes Karen, Kayah (Karenni and Padaung), Kayaw and Pa-O: The Karen probably moved down to Burma in the 6th or 7th century. They occupied the mountainous region covering (and crossing) most of the long Burmese-Thai border. Today there are also large populations of Karen in the Irrawaddy Delta area and in all urban centres.

OTHERS include Anglo-Burmese, Chinese, Indian and Rohingya: As well as indigenous minority groups, Burma also has large populations of naturalised immigrants. Many of these first came to Burma during the British occupation when Indian administrators were brought in to run the country. Chinese and Indian traders dominated the economy. Bengali-speaking Muslims, known as Rohingyas, were also brought into Burma by the British colonial rulers. The British themselves sometimes inter-married or had children with all indigenous peoples, and often educated their children abroad.

MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS OF BURMA

Name	Population	Main Religion(s)	Main Armed Opposition group(s)
Akha	100,000	Animist	_____
Burman	29,000,000	Buddhist	members of Democratic Alliance of Burma and CPB
Chin	750,000-1,500,000	Christian, Animist	Chin National Front
Chinese	400,000	Buddhist, Taoist	_____
Danu	70,000-100,000	Buddhist	_____
Indian	800,000	Muslim, Hindu	_____
Kachin	500,000-1,500,000	Christian, Animist	Kachin Independence Org: * New Democratic army*
Karen	2,650,000-7,000,000	Buddhist, Christian	Karen National Union
Karenni	100,000-200,000	Christian, Animist	Karenni National Progressive Party# Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front*
Kayan	60,000-100,000	Christian, Animist	Kayan New land Party*
Kokang	70,000-100,000	Buddhist, Taiost	Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army*
Lahu	170,000-250,000	Animist, Christian	Lahu National Organisation
Mon	1,100,000-4,000,000	Buddhist	New Mon State Party*
Naga	70,000-100,000	Animist, Christian	National Socialist Council of Nagaland
Palaung	300,000-400,000	Buddhist	Palaung State Liberation Party*
PaO	580,000-700,000	Buddhist	PaO National Org: * Shan State Nationalities Liberation Org: *
Rakhine	1,750,000-2,500,000	Buddhist	National United Front of Arakan Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front, Rohingya Solidarity Organisation
Shan	2,220,000-4,000,000	Buddhist	Mong Tai Army*, Shan State Army*
Tavoyan	500,000	Buddhist	Tavoyan Liberation Front*
Wa	90,000-300,000	Animist	United Wa State Party*

1. All figures are approximate and involve considerable ethnic overlap. Generally, the lower figures on the left are government estimates based on strict interpretations of ethnicity, while the higher figures on the right are ethnic minority estimates, which usually include more local inhabitants and ethnic sub-groups within different territories.

2. Parties marked with asterisk (*) had cease-fires with the SLORC in November 1994.

3. # Cease-fire broke down and resumed fighting in July 1995.