

*In 1990 the first open elections were allowed by the military regime of Burma since 1962. After a devastating defeat at the polls, the regime rejected the election results, and instead demanded a new constitution. These events sparked renewed interest in the possibility of a democratic future in Burma. This study focuses on those democratic structures that might best facilitate stability in Burma, by asking a question not fully addressed in the current literature. Assuming that a democratic constitution could be implemented tomorrow, what types of institutions would it feature? This paper adapts the tenants of consociationalism to the special cultural context of Burma in order to provide suggestions for a democratic future. First, a brief look at historical and ethnic conflict influences in Burma is provided in order to define the case. Next, two structures derived from consociationalism - proportional representation and regional autonomy - are combined with presidential-parliamentarianism. These institutions may represent some possible solutions to the democratic dilemma in Burma.*