

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OF MYANMAR IN BRIEF



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HOW THE RULING PARTY, NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY-NLD), HAS BEEN DOING



The 2015 general elections

The ruling party won 390 seats, 255 in lower house and 135 in upper house, totaling 79.4% in the 2015 general elections, **59.4% if military seats are included**

The 2017 by-elections

The ruling party won 5 out of 9 (55.56%) in Lower House and all the three 3 (100%) in Upper House in the 2017 by-elections.

April 2019 Yangon City Development Committee (Yangon Municipality) Election

- NLD candidates won 85 percent of all seats held on Sunday, 31st of March, for Yangon Municipal Elections, the business capital's government.



Thura Swiss

HOW THE RULING PARTY, NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY-NLD), HAS BEEN DOING



Which party do you feel closest to?

	Total	Urban/Town	Rural/Village
NLD	52%	56%	47%
USDP	19%	16%	21%
Other (Specify)	30%	28%	31%

If a general election is held tomorrow, which party candidate would you vote for?

	Total	Urban/Town	Rural/Village
The NLD candidate	45%	50%	40%
The USDP candidate	19%	16%	21%
Other (specify)	15%	13%	17%

ESTIMATED OUTCOME OF NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION (COALITION GOV'T? CAN NLD MAINTAIN THEIR SEATS?)

- **NLD won't do as well as it did in the 2015 general elections (Won 79.4% of elected seats; 59.4% if military seats included)**
- More ethnic group political parties will compete on their own
- Former allies which didn't form their own parties for fear that votes would be spread have their own political parties (88 Generation Peace and Open Society- former political prisoners)
- Votes will be spread more –NLD may have to form an alliance, probably with ethnic group parties or former political prisoners
- USDP will still have to wait for them to come back to stage
- Certain conditions may sway voters not to vote for NLD (ultra-nationalist movements, Rohingya/Muslim urban riots, political instability – armed conflict in ethnic areas etc.)



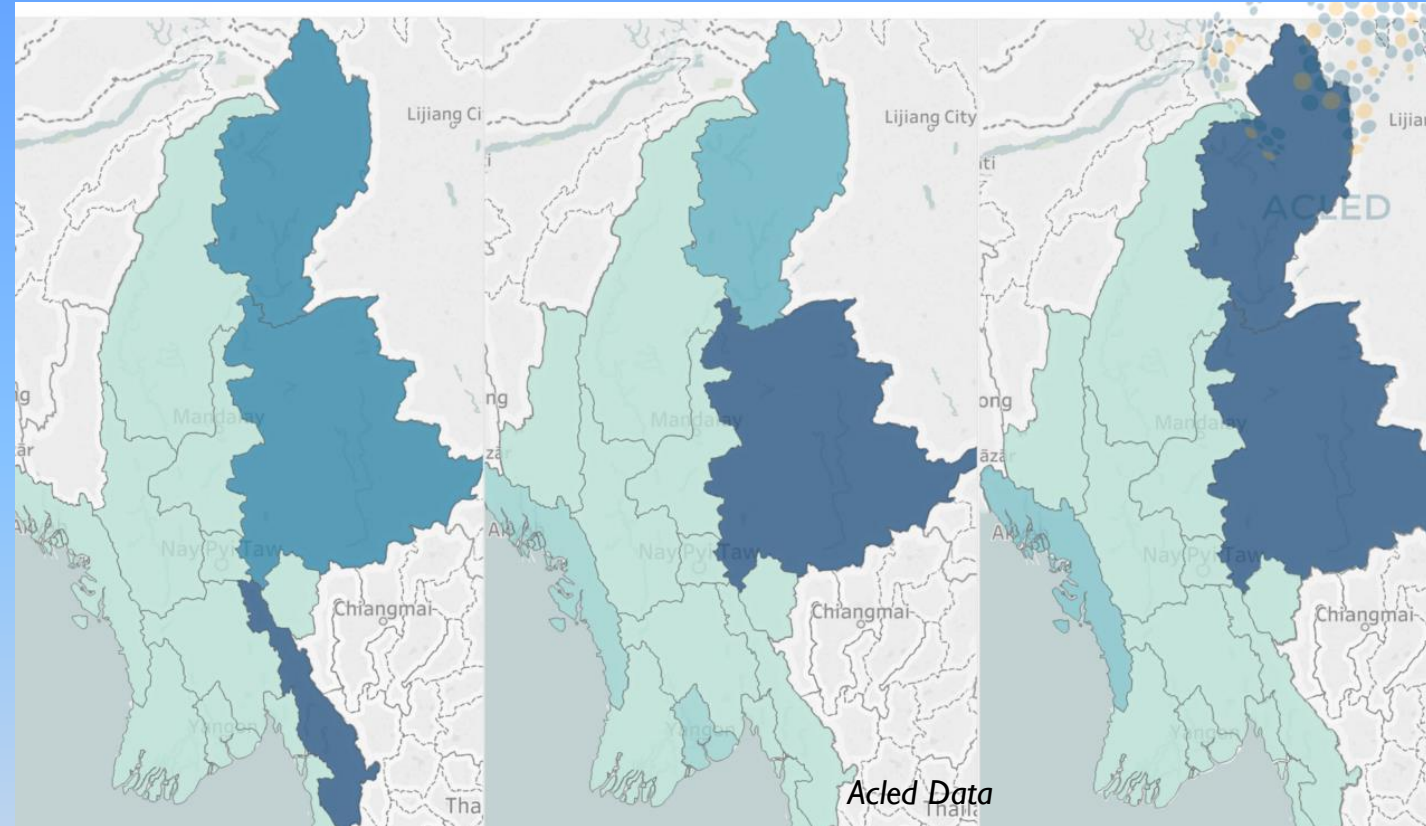
ISSUES RELATED TO ETHNIC GROUPS INCLUDING THOSE IN RAKHINE STATE

- According to the Myanmar government position, the word “Rohingya” is politicized and they are not categorized as one of the Myanmar ethnic groups.
- Thousands of Bengalis from East Pakistan (Bangladesh) were believed to enter illegally during the post Myanmar independence (1948) period
- Rohingyas are not entitled citizenship to the law
- Until recently, (a few years back), Rohingyas and locals interact commercially.
- Beginning 2012, the first incident occurred when a group of Rohingya men were accused of rape and murder of a Rakhine (local) woman.
- By 2017, 625,000 Rohingyas crossed the border from among one million living in Myanmar; others remain



ISSUES RELATED TO ETHNIC ARMED GROUPS

- Peace talks between the government, the military and the ethnic armed groups stalled
- China plays an important role in bringing unenthusiastic armed groups to the peace talks
- Arakan Army (AA) is winning small skirmishes in Rakhine State, the conflict area in the west, but this could be the tactics of the Myanmar military
- Myanmar military strength stands in 2017 stands fourth in ASEAN and 31st in the world (Global firepower index)



2011-2013

2014-2016

2017-2018

POLITICAL ROLE OF MYANMAR'S MILITARY

Since early 1960s the Myanmar military has ruled the country under different names such as Revolutionary Council, Burma Socialist Programme Party, and the 'multi-party democracy' until 2011.

Formation of the Lower and Upper Houses

Military MPs occupy one-fourth of each house at the national parliament and at the regional parliaments

Constitutional amendment

A provision of the constitution can be amended only with the approval of more than 75 percent of MPs

Ministries under the Command-in-Chief

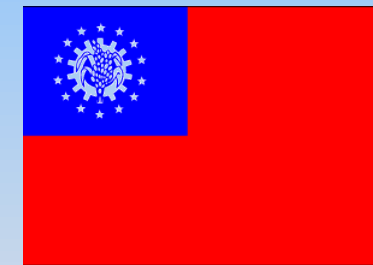
Minister for Defense, Home Affairs (in charge of police, prisons, and fire departments) are nominated by the Commander-in-Chief.

Command-in-Chief of the Armed Forces

The Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services is the Supreme Commander of all armed forces



1948 to 1973



1973 to 2008



2008 to up to present

POST AUNG SAN SU KYI LEADERSHIP

Aung San Suu Kyi is the de facto leader

She said when NLD won in the elections that she decides everything

Who will succeed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi?

She should have discussed with her close aides regarding this matter but this is not known beyond her close circles

Power will be shared between NLD and the military

The best scenario will be power sharing between the NLD, ruling party, and the military



THANK YOU
