

**Dissertation Abstracts**

**The Politics of State-Business Relations in Post-Colonial  
Burma**

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Ph.D. dissertation. Cornell University, 2001. 423 pp.  
Supervisor: Benedict Anderson

Focusing primarily on the problems prevailing between the state and various societal groups, scholars and journalists have depicted the interactions between the state and society in post-colonial Burma as a series of zero-sum games. With regard to state-business relations, the existing studies have suggested that the pattern of state-business relations was quite different under the three different regimes which Burma experienced since it gained independence from the British in 1948. This dissertation, however, attempts to contribute to a better understanding of state-society relations in Burma in general and state-business relations in particular, by arguing first that state-society relations in Burma cannot simply be reduced to a collection of zero-sum games, and second that despite the remarkable variations in the formal political and economic institutional order of each regime, crony capitalism has always thrived and continues to serve as the bedrock of state-business relations throughout the postcolonial period. Regardless of their ideological orientation, all post-colonial Burmese governments depended on the business sector to finance and support their efforts at governance. In a similar vein, business people had to foster and maintain good connections with state elites in order to successfully run their businesses. The business sector was never strong enough to capture the state apparatus and make it serve its interests. Rather, a weak state and a weak business sector exchanged favors through the mechanism of informal patron-client relations in order to ensure their mutual survival. In this way, the interactions between the state and the business community in post-colonial Burma mutually empowered their respective positions in society. This dissertation also attempts to probe the underlying factors that led to the persistence of cronyism as the basic pattern of state-business relations throughout Burma's entire post-colonial period Business Firms in District Towns by Line of Business and Nationality of Ownership (in Percentage). In so doing, I argue that the persistence of cronyism as the basis of Burma's post-colonial state-business relations can be attributed, on the one hand, to a lack of sufficient technical and fiscal capacities and the problems prevailing in the 'legitimacy renewal mechanisms' of the post-colonial regimes and, on the other, to the wider socio-political and economic environment which did not favor the emergence of the business class as an independent political actor.

## **Organizations**

### **The Cornell Burma/Myanmar Research Group**

#### An Update on Burma/Myanmar Studies Activities at Cornell University

The CMRG was formed in 2003 by several Cornell graduate students as an interdisciplinary association to promote Burma/Myanmar studies and related research at Cornell University. The current members of the CMRG include Cornell faculty and graduate and undergraduate students affiliated with the departments of Asian Studies, History, Political Science, Anthropology, Classics, Music, Economics, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics, the field of Asian Religions, and the South and Southeast Asia area programs. Our activities include sponsoring formal and informal presentations and workshops led by visiting scholars and Cornell faculty and graduate students, designing and directing seminars and reading groups, sponsoring cultural events and screening Burmese language films, encouraging the study of Burmese and Pali as well as Shan, Mon, and other regional languages, and, particularly, facilitating advanced Burma/Myanmar related research for members of the Cornell community. In addition, we maintain BURMA-L, the CMRG mailing list, which serves as electronic forum for the exchange of information relevant to Burma/Myanmar research at Cornell, and the CMRG website, which contains links to useful information on Burma/Myanmar studies and research resources at Cornell and elsewhere. We encourage Burma/Myanmar scholars to contact us if they plan to be in the greater New York State area to discuss a possible visit to Cornell. For further information about Burma/Myanmar studies at Cornell please visit the CMRG website <http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/dcl33/cmrg.html> or write:

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**Seminars****SOAS Burma Lectures****The Legal System in Early Burma**

**Tilman Frasch  
(Manchester Metropolitan University)**

**January 2004**

According to leading authorities on Burmese history, the origins of modern Burma were laid very early in the history of the country, mainly under the kings of Pagan (c. 1050-1300 C.E.). This kingdom, it is claimed, was based upon codified law, which was universal and impersonal, while its administrative staff held specific offices for which they were trained. Focusing on the legal system, the paper attempts to challenge this established view by looking afresh at the sources from which the picture seems to emerge. It will be argued that the administration of justice neither shows signs of a clear structure (e.g. with specified offices such as boards of judges, attorneys of state or courts of appeal) nor that the existing law books (dhammasats) were of any importance therein.

**The Burma Campaign Society**

The Burma Campaign Society which was established in March 2002 to promote understanding of Britain and Japan's encounter during the Second World War.  
Contact Information:

The Burma Campaign Society  
19 Norland Square  
London W11 4PU  
Tel: 020 7221 6985  
Fax: 020 7792 1757  
Email: [info@burmacampaignsociety.org](mailto:info@burmacampaignsociety.org)  
<http://burmacampaignsociety.netfirms.com/index.html>

**BCS Seminars and Meetings, May 2003-March 2004**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2003

Experiences as one of the Japanese Surrendered Personnel in Java  
(The Treatment of Japanese Surrendered Personnel After the Second World War)  
Sadao Oba

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2003

## Annual General Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> August 2003

Annual Memorial Service for those who died in Burma during the Second World War, followed by a ceremony to pray for reconciliation and world peace.

18<sup>th</sup> August 2003

Service of Reconciliation which will be held as part of the Evensong Service at Canterbury Cathedral.

14<sup>th</sup> October 2003

The British Commonwealth Force and the Occupation of Japan  
Professor Kosuge

15<sup>th</sup> March 2004

Burma—The Japanese Invasion in Historical Context  
John McEnery

Advertisement statement:

“John McEnery, author of “Epilogue in Burma 1945-48”, fought against the Japanese and remained in Burma after the cease fire in August 1945, serving in due course with HQ Burma Command, Rangoon, and experiencing the hand-over of power back to a Burma Government.

British annexation of Burma began with the First Anglo-Burmese War in 1826. The Japanese invasion in 1942 ended in defeat and was followed by Burmese independence in 1948. The speaker will review the position of Burma prior to the Japanese invasion, internal reaction to the invasion, the breakdown between the Burma National Army and the Japanese, the effect on post-war Burma of the Japanese invasion, the character of the post-independent Burma Army, and whether their invasion by the Japanese helped India and Burma to be the first by almost ten years post-WW2 of the former British Empire countries to achieve independence.”

## **Britain-Burma Society**

Regular meetings are at:  
The Medical Society of London,  
11 Chandos Street,  
LONDON W.1.  
United Kingdom

Please note: **Meetings are confined to members and their guests - and are subject to reporting restrictions.**

For more information on the BBS seminars, see:

<http://www.shwepla.net/ibex.mv?which+France+/Calendar/Calendar.mv>

## **BBS Seminars May 2003-March 2004**

Thursday 8th May 2003

### **ELEPHANTS**

**by Daw Khyne U Mar, BVS, MPhil, MSc**

We are fortunate to hear from one of the world's greatest experts on elephants: Daw Khyne U Mar, who until 1999 was head of the Veterinary Division in Burma's Ministry of Forestry, which meant she had in her care 2700 Government-employed elephants, and kept up a stud book of all Government-owned working elephants employed for the last 50 years. More recently, many other countries of Asia have been seeking her advice on the proper care and management of elephants, as the old knowledge dwindles and new problems arise. She gives a PowerPoint lecture on elephants she has known, using a data projector onto the big screen.

Wednesday 18th June 2003

### **Family Routes**

**by Wendy Law-Yone**

One of the best-known Burmese novelists outside Burma will read from her latest book and talk about how she came to write it. Wendy Law-Yone grew up in U Nu's Burma - her father was EM Law-Yone, the founder and publisher of the Rangoon *Nation*. Her life has been a varied one - she fell in love successively with German, Russian and French literature, and got herself a degree in Comparative Literature from Eckerd College in Florida. She published two novels in the USA: *The Coffin Tree* and *Irrawaddy Tango*. The book she has now been writing is about the "Burma Road", and her researches into the lives of her two grandfathers, one a Yunnanese merchant, the other a British colonial officer.

Wednesday 1st October 2003

### **The October Reception**

A chance to meet up over a glass of wine at the beginning of the Society's year. Although as usual there was no formal speech, Anna Allott gave a little presentation about a number of self-help projects that are now going on in Burma, run by monasteries or other philanthropic institutions.

Thursday, 6th November 2003

### **First Impressions of a Third Secretary**

**by Martin Morland CMG**

Martin Morland's talk concentrated mostly on his first posting to Burma, at the end of the 1950s, though he did also make some comparisons with his second posting, as British Ambassador to Burma, in 1986-90. U Nu was Prime Minister when Martin Morland arrived, an unknown young diplomat learning the Burmese language and fascinated with this unique country. U Nu was soon succeeded by General Ne Win. Martin had two 3-month periods in Mandalay, and travelled widely in Shan and Kachin States. And in Rangoon too, as junior Secretary he had scope for a rich and varied social life, with a number of international visitors and even a white elephant.

Thursday 11th December 2003

**Second Chance in Mandalay  
by Diana Millington**

Up to the age of 16 she knew nothing about her real father, or the childhood she nearly had in Burma, her birth on the run from Japanese soldiers, or even her grandfather who had first come to Burma in 1904. It was only when her husband, Graham Millington, was posted to head the British Council in Burma, in the year 2000, that she was able to follow up some of this history - and to make her own contribution. She was invited to teach English at Paung Daw Oo monastery school near Mandalay. And, discovering how few books the students had at their disposal, she was inspired to build a library as a donation. She tells her story in pictures, via data projector on the big screen.

Thursday, 5th February 2004

**John and Anna Eat Pizza in Rangoon  
by Anna Allott and the Okells**

Some things about Burma never change, and others are constantly in flux, to the discerning visitor. Today John Okell and Anna Allott, who are two of our most popular speakers as well as some of the most knowledgeable and discerning students of Burma, will bring us up to date on the Burmese scene. Both have just returned from Burma and Mrs Okell will also be contributing her impressions of the country.

Tuesday 9th March 2004

**Son of Donnison  
by Professor David Donnison**

Our speaker is the son of Vernon Donnison, who as Chief Secretary presided over some of that unsettled time after World War Two. The period between the 1920s and Independence in 1948 was a period in which the relationship between the British and the Burmese people was transformed, in a multitude of ways, and the Donnison family was in the thick of it. David Donnison puts together his parents' stories from his own memories and their diaries.

## **Conferences**

### **UHRC Conference: Traditions of Knowledge in Southeast Asia**

The Conference "Traditions of Knowledge in Southeast Asia" was organized in cooperation with the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition and was held in Yangon from December 17 - 19, 2003 with the International Business Centre, Pyay Road, as the Conference venue.

The Universitites Historical Research annually organizes a Conference on Southeast Asian history and culture. The Conference provides a wonderful opportunity for participating in a discussion of current scholarship on aspects of Southeast Asian history and culture with a special emphasis on Myanmar and for meeting Myanmar and international scholars in an atmosphere of warm hospitality.

### **Conference Summary**

The UHRC Conference for this year, "Conference on Traditions of Knowledge in Southeast Asia" held in Yangon, 17-19 December 2003, was certainly a success and represents a solid contribution to the field. It consisted of three days of parallel sessions (three sessions per time block) and included papers on various societies of Southeast Asia, although Burma was the most heavily represented. An international assortment of scholars (drawn from North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, Japan, Taiwan, and Australia) presented their current research.

For the benefit of list members who were unable to attend this year, I have sorted out below, by topic, the papers presented on Burma. Please note also that the next UHRC conference will not be held until January 2005.

### **Language**

San San Hnin Tun "Traditions of Myanmar Language Instruction"

### **Archaeology/Art/Religious symbolism**

Alexandra Green "The Denison University Collection of Burmese Art 'Acquisition and Analysis'"

Donald Stadtner "The Fallacy of Pyu Art"

Elizabeth Moore "Ancient Knowledge and the Use of Landscape in Walled Settlement in Lower Myanmar"

Bob Hudson "Myanmar's Early Urban Centres: some Proposals for Computer Mapping and Analysis of Archaeological Data"

Kyaw Win Oo "The Shitthaung Temple of Mrauk-U New Investigations"

Ni Ni Myint "The Tradition of Sand Pagodas in Myanmar"

Rosita Dellios "Mandala From Sacred Origins to Sovereign Affairs in Traditional Southeast Asia"

### **Precolonial Myanmar**

Wil O. Dijk "Life in Seventeenth Century Burma (Myanmar) Through Dutch Eyes"

Aurore Candier "Imagination and Knowledge: some Comments on Rumours in the Mid-Nineteenth Century Konbaung Court"

Tun Aung Chain, "The Tradition of Statecraft in 18th Century Myanmar"

Aung Than Tun "Kinwun Mingyi U Gaung: His Life and His Works"

### **Colonial Myanmar**

Neil A. Englehart "A Tradition of Knowledge About Myanmar: J. S. Furnivall on Colonial Rule"

Penelope Edwards "Re-Locating the Interlocutor Taw Sein Ko (1864-1930) and the Triangulation of Colonial Knowledge"

### **Literature**

Annemarie Esche "The Tradition of Reference Books in Myanmar and the Challenges of the Present Time"

Khin Aye "Zimme Pannatha (Pnnasa Jataka) and Myanmar Literature"

Myint Zan "A Glimpse of Three Persian English and Myanmar 'Religious' Poems Which were Written Centuries Apart"

Khin Muang Nyunt "U Po Kya's Writings: His Fictionalized Historical Research 'Alaung-daw Kassapa'"

Takehito Onishi "Harp of Burma and the Southeast Asian Influence on the Modern Japanese Mind"

Thet Tun "The Return of Shway Yoe: James George Scott as a Writer"

Than Htut & Thaw Kaung "Mirrored in Short Stories: Some Glimpses of Myanmar Life and Society in the 20th Century"

### **Religion**

Jason Andrew Carbine "When the 'Thread Doesn't Snap: Lineage, Continuity, and Tradition from a Shwegyin Perspective"

Guy Lubeigt "A Country Modeled by Buddhist Traditions"



Benedicte Brac dela Perriere "Ritual as Knowledge and Its Transmissioun Concerning the Cult to the Thirty Seven Lords"

Yukako Iikuni "The Meaning of Renunciation of Women in a Village"

Waldemar Sailer "Toward a Presentation of a Study of One Footprint"

Kyawt Kyawt "The Observance of Myanmar Traditional Occult Sciences"

Tin Win "Monastic Education and the Beginning of Western Education in Myanmar"

### **Economics**

Tin Soe "An Economic Interpretation of Some Myanmar Traditional concepts in the Context of Globalization"

### **Warfare**

Sunait Chutintaranond "The Rite of Elephant duel in Thai-Burmese Military History"

### **Ethnicity**

Kazuto Ikeda "Various Versions of the Kayin History: Knowledge of the Part Among the buddhist and Christian Kayin"

Takatani Michio "Ethnic Identity and Knowledge of the Shan"

Sun Laichen "Histories of the Gwe. Gueo. Kui Peoples in Mainland Southeast Asia"

### **Rakhine**

Jacques Leider "The Min Rajagri Satam of Mahajeya Thein: Making a History for the King."

### **Technology**

Sein Myint "The Prehistoric Technology in Myanmar"

## **BURMA STUDIES CONFERENCE**

Center for Burma Studies  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois,  
USA

October 22-24, 2004

Although the deadline for paper submissions has passed, please take note that the BSC conference will take place 22-23 October 2004.

For more information, contact:

Alexandra Green, Program Chair  
Art Department  
Denison University  
Granville, OH 43023 USA

or via email:

[greenar@denison.edu](mailto:greenar@denison.edu)

Information will be listed on the Northern Illinois website  
<http://www.grad.niu.edu/Burma/>

## **Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Hosts Eight Day Workshop on Myanmar Issues and Myanmar Views: Searching for a Unified Perspective**

31 January to 7 February 2004

Though thousands of words are said and written each year about Myanmar, foreign scholars have rarely ventured into the country to ask the stakeholders in the country's future what are their views on the pressing socio-economic issues of the day. Moreover, while a variety of international organisations and governments have taken public positions on how to assist Myanmar in its quest to modernise and develop, very little is known about internal Myanmar perceptions of these positions and their consequences.

As a first step at attempting to better understand the current socio-economic issues of Myanmar, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore, organised a week long workshop. The workshop commenced in Singapore on 31 January and then proceeded for six days of meetings in Yangon. Seven international scholars from Singapore, the United States, the United Kingdom, Denmark and Japan, experts in Myanmar's history as well as on issue areas such as education, health, administration, policy formulation, regional development, and international affairs, held a series of meetings with leaders from Myanmar NGOs, peace groups and other organisations in an attempt to understand Myanmar's issues from within.

The workshop concluded at ISEAS in Singapore where the scholars tabled their initial findings. The information gathered will provide material for future research and analysis in collaboration with Myanmar scholars as well as a volume summarizing the authors' conclusions. Funding for the event was made possible by ISEAS programme funds and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan, while the final workshop dinner in Yangon was hosted by the Myanmar-Britain Business Association. The workshop was chaired by Prof. Robert H. Taylor, Visiting Senior Research Fellow at ISEAS and organised by Dr. Tin Maung Maung Than, Senior Fellow at ISEAS, assisted by Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing, Associate Professor of Political Science at the National University of Singapore.

Robert Taylor

**Programmes****SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition, Myanmar (Burma) Summer Programme****MYANMAR HISTORY FROM  
MYANMAR PERSPECTIVES****A SUMMER PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS AND ACADEMICS**

The SEAMEO CHAT Summer Programme Myanmar History from Myanmar Perspectives is designed to provide a better understanding of Myanmar history as studied and interpreted by Myanmar scholars. The Programme will run for two weeks from 1 to 14 September 2003 and consists of a course of lectures by prominent Myanmar historians and a field study of Myanmar historical sites with the guidance of a Myanmar scholar.

**STANDARD 14-DAY PROGRAMME****Course of Lectures**

- Source Materials of Myanmar History
- Myanmar before Bagan
- Bagan: Buddhism
- Bagan: Architecture
- Hanthawaddy: Maritime Trade and Land Empire
- Mandalay: The Court
- Mandalay: The City
- The Anglo-Myanmar Wars
- The Impact of Colonialism
- The Early Nationalist Movement
- The Making of the Myanmar Army

**Field Study**

- Bago (Hanthawaddy)
- Bagan
- Mandalay

The participation fee in the Standard 14-day Programme is US \$ 850. This covers tuition, accommodation in standard hotels and travel by coach for all which SEAMEO CHAT takes responsibility.

The participation fee does not cover international air travel for which participants make their own arrangements.

For programme details contact,

U Myo Aung  
SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition  
Pyay Road, Yangon 11041  
Fax: 95-1- 515175  
e-mail: [seameo\\_chat@mptmail.net.mm](mailto:seameo_chat@mptmail.net.mm)

The Online Registration form is available at:

[http://www.seameo.org/registration\\_form.shtml](http://www.seameo.org/registration_form.shtml)

## **Fellowships**

### **Announcement of three post-doctoral fellowships at the Lund University.**

The Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies at Lund University hereby invites applications for three postdoctoral fellowships. The Centre for East and South East Asian Studies is focused upon research concerning contemporary East and South-East Asia, principally from social sciences and humanities perspectives. Information regarding the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies may be found at the Centre's website (<http://www.ace.lu.se>).

The duration of each fellowship is two years, commencing 1 September 2004 and ending on 30 August 2006.

Candidates must have completed all the requirements for the doctoral degree before 1 July 2004, i.e. two months prior to the commencement of the fellowships.

The deadline for applications is 16:00 on Friday 14 May 2004.

Applications should be sent by mail to the following address:

The Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies  
Attn.: Professor Roger Greatrex  
Box 792  
220 07 Lund  
Sweden