

Government



Flag of Burma

Burma, also known as Myanmar, received independence from the United Kingdom in 1948. In 1984, the country became the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma.

The armed forces seized power in 1988 and formed a State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). The Prime Minister, who is also Chairman of the SLORC, is the head of a military junta.

Elections were last held in 1990. The election results were not recognized by the military junta and Aung San Suu Kyi (Nobel Peace Prize, 1991), the leader of the winning democratic party was placed under house arrest until 1995 and again from 2000 until 2002.

The country is divided into seven states and seven administrative divisions.

The legal system is based on remnants of the British era, but there is no guarantee of fair trials, as the judiciary is not independent of the military regime.

The capital is Rangoon (referred to by the regime as Yangon).

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Independence Day	January 4
Union Day	February 12
Peasants' Day	March 2

Resistance Day	March 27
May Day	May 1
Martyrs Day	July 19
Christmas Day	December 25

Other holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, are Full Moon of Tabaung, Thingyan (Burmese Water Festival), Burmese New Year's Day, Full Moon of Kason (Beginning of Buddhist Lent), Full Moon of Waso, Full Moon of Thadingyut (End of Buddhist Lent), Tazaungdaing, National Day, Karen New Year, Idul Athwaha, and Dewali.

Industries

The principal industry is agriculture. The major crops include rice, sugarcane, groundnuts, oilseed, corn, jute, cotton, and opium.

Other industries include wood processing, textiles, footwear, mining, cement, petroleum refining, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer, fishing, livestock raising, and tourism.

Languages

The official language is Burmese. The use of English is permitted in commerce and education.

Time Zone

The observed Standard Time is 6 hours 30 minutes fast of UT(GMT). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 581 Merchant Street, Rangoon (GPO 521).

The mailing address is Box B, APO AP 96546.