

TROJMUN Security Council Study guide

Topic: *‘Achieving Stability in Myanmar’*

About the Chairs

Heya, my name is Eva Wray and I will be one of your Chairs for the Security Council committee! TrojMUN will be my 16th MUN conference however it will only be my 2nd time chairing since I tend to lean more towards the arguing and debate side of things. Nonetheless, I cannot wait to chair an advanced committee with such a complex and intricate topic as I am sure watching the debates will be incredibly entertaining. Aside from MUN I really enjoy sports, particularly climbing and hiking, and I love to learn about new mathematical and scientific things as much as I can. I look forward to seeing you in March and good luck on the position papers. :)

Hi, everyone! My name is Eliška Gemperle and I am honored to be one of your chairs for the Security Council. I began my MUN journey three years ago when I attended my first conference. Since then, I've had the opportunity to participate in numerous MUNs, even outside the Czech Republic.

I am thrilled to chair the Security Council once again, as I had so much fun the last time. What I love most about MUN is the opportunity to meet amazing people who share my passion for global affairs. I hope we will all have an unforgettable experience together. Looking forward to seeing you all in March!

Introduction

Achieving stability in Myanmar remains one of the most complex and urgent challenges in Southeast Asia. The country has experienced decades of political instability and ethnic conflicts, which have deeply impacted its social, economic and political stance. Since the military's coup in 2021, there has been an ongoing civil war, with pro-democracy groups, ethnic armed organizations and resistance militias fighting against the military junta's rule. Over time these conflicts have created a dire humanitarian crisis, with millions displaced and countless lives lost. Achieving peace requires not only ending the violence but also fostering a political environment that ensures justice, equality and the protection of all citizens, regardless of their background.

Key terms

Below are a few special terms that can provide some useful information:

Rohingya People - The Rohingya are a stateless Muslim ethnic group primarily residing in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Historically referred to as Arakanese Indians, they have faced systematic persecution, including denial of citizenship under Myanmar's 1982 nationality law, restrictions on movement, education and employment and severe human rights abuses. Often described as one of the world's most persecuted minorities, they live under conditions that some experts compare to apartheid. Their continued marginalization remains a key issue in Myanmar's ethnic conflicts and political instability.

National League for Democracy (NLD) – The NLD is Myanmar's leading pro-democracy political party, founded in 1988 by Aung San Suu Kyi and other activists in response to military rule. The party advocates for democratic governance, human rights and national reconciliation. It won major electoral victories in 2015 and 2020 but was overthrown by the military in a coup in 2021. Since then, many of its leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, have been imprisoned and the party has been banned by the military junta. Despite repression, the NLD remains a key symbol of Myanmar's democratic movement and resistance against military rule.

Tatmadaw – The Tatmadaw is Myanmar's armed forces, holding significant political and economic power since the country's independence. It has ruled Myanmar for most of its modern history, either directly or through military-backed governments and has been responsible for multiple coups, including in 1962 and 2021. The Tatmadaw has been widely accused of human rights violations, including violent crackdowns on ethnic minorities, suppression of pro-democracy movements and war crimes. Despite facing resistance from civilian and ethnic armed groups, it continues to control key institutions and resources, making it a central force in Myanmar's ongoing instability.

ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus – Proposed in April 2021, this peace plan by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations aimed to address Myanmar's crisis following the military coup. It called for an immediate end to violence, inclusive political dialogue among all parties and mediation by an ASEAN-appointed special envoy. Additionally, the plan emphasized the need for humanitarian assistance to affected communities and granted the special envoy access to Myanmar to engage with key stakeholders. While initially accepted by the military junta, the consensus has largely failed due to the junta's refusal to comply and ASEAN's lack of enforcement has made implementation difficult.

Ethnic Armed Organizations – EAOs are military groups representing Myanmar’s ethnic minorities, many of which have been fighting for autonomy, federalism, or independence since the country’s independence in 1948. These groups control significant territories, particularly in border regions and have complex relationships with both the central government and each other. Some EAOs have engaged in peace talks with past governments, while others remain in active conflict with the military, resisting its rule. Since the 2021 coup, many EAOs have aligned with pro-democracy resistance groups, playing a key role in the ongoing civil war. However, divisions among them make it difficult to create a unified opposition against the military junta.

People’s Defense Forces – The PDFs are a collection of armed resistance groups formed after the military coup in February 2021. Composed mainly of civilians, including students, medics and former military personnel, the PDFs aim to overthrow the military junta and restore democracy in Myanmar. They fight alongside ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and other resistance groups in a broad-based insurgency against the military regime. While the PDFs are still in the process of organizing and gaining military strength, they have become a crucial component of the anti-junta movement, engaging in guerrilla warfare. Despite facing heavy military retaliation, their efforts continue to challenge the junta’s hold on power.

History

Burma, now known as Myanmar, first gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1948, after the second world war, forming a democratic socialist state controlled by prime minister U Nu. However, economic instability and social disorder was present and it grew to a national security crisis in 1958, at which point the Prime minister asked the military to step in and become a temporary caretaker government until political order was restored, at which point they were to return full power to the civilian government. The military government recognised the civilian government AFPFL, led by U Nu, in 1960 as the ruling government once again, however society had viewed the military as necessary for the nation’s stability and they associated the AFPFL with growing crime rights and the inability to rule a country. This gave the military government enough fuel to stage a coup in 1962, less than two years after they had restored power to the civilian government in 1960.

On the 2nd of March, 1962, what is known as the ‘Burmese coup d’état’ took place, marking the beginning of a one-party rule in Burma. The military managed to replace the

civilian government (AFPFL) with the 'Union Revolutionary Council' leading to complete dominance of the military in Burmese politics from then on. For the first 12 years following the coup, the country was ruled under martial law, and the military's role in the nation's economy and politics grew. In 1974, there were attempts at a part-military, part-civilian government however in September 1988, this was soon taken over again by the military. The 'military junta' remained in power for another 23 years, continuing to be a repressive government engaging in countless violent conflicts with different ethnic groups residing in Myanmar. Some people wanted independence, autonomy, and democracy, while others wanted peace and safety as the repressive military regime did not care for the humanitarian crises sprawled throughout their nation.

In 2011, what is known as Myanmar's 'Experiment with Democracy' began when once again, a hybrid government was attempted. In 2015 elections were held and the 'National League for Democracy' won. They won again in 2020, by a landslide, however the military government disputed the results and staged a coup to take back full power, imprisoning once again the leader of the LND, Aung San Suu Kyi. The people of Myanmar were not prepared to turn back the past 10 years of democratic progress, and they were determined to push the military out of politics. This led to a full scale civil war which is still being fought to this day. The people of Myanmar built up an armed resistance army, consisting of both ethnic armed organisations, (ethnic minorities who have been fighting the military government for rights and independence since 1962), and the resistance groups, which emerged after the 2021 coup. These resistance groups consisted of volunteers like medics, students, lawyers, ordinary citizens, and protesters, who picked up weapons with the goal to fight and restore democracy in the country. It is important to note that as of now, in 2025, after 4 years of fighting, although the military government only controls 21% of Myanmar, the rest is not controlled by only one resistant group, but instead a range of different ethnic armed organisations and resistance groups. They do not all get along with each other, and to fully take out the military power, they would need to gain power of the currently military-controlled capital city, Naypyidaw, and other major cities, which would require cooperation between the different groups. Although it currently seems to just be a 'matter of time' before the military government falls completely, there are significantly more pressing humanitarian issues that have risen due to the ongoing conflict which need to be addressed.

Many parts of Myanmar are disconnected, without internet and unable to communicate information outwards, however several acts of atrocities have been reported. For example, people from a muslim ethnic minority, Rohingya in Myanmar are being killed

and displaced by both the military and resistant armed groups there. The United Nations labelled the activities against the Rohingya as 'genocidal violence by the military', these acts resulted in 750,000 Rohingya people fleeing to Bangladesh in 2017, displaced and living in poverty. The UN has also warned of famine in the Rakhine area of Myanmar, the same area that this muslim minority is suffering attacks. On top of this, a total of 20 million people in Myanmar are in need of aid, 15 million of which don't have enough to eat, while others are dying due to the conflict, attacks on minorities, poverty, cyclones and floods, and even the military government kidnapping children to force them to fight, using them as 'shields'. In total nearly 3 million people have been displaced since 1948, and since then till 2011, 130,000 people have been killed. Since 2011 until present, 53,000 deaths have been recorded due to the conflict.

Country stances

The People's Republic of China - China is the only nation that has been putting in significant effort to support Myanmar in the conflict and is known as the most influential foreign actor. However, China is only doing this to protect their own interests. Myanmar is very important for China's access to the Indian ocean and China has many projects there, therefore China's economy can be heavily influenced by Myanmar's future. Thus, the Chinese government have made sure whoever wins the struggle for power in Myanmar, that they are on the side of the Chinese. China has done this by supporting and arming the military in Myanmar, while also arming most of the ethnic groups directly or indirectly.

UK/US/France - A joint statement from the US, UK, European Union, and some other states was made condemning the escalating violence and calling on the Myanmar military to immediately escalate their attacks in the region. They underlined the necessity for accountability for all the atrocities in Myanmar. Since 2012 the US has donated 1.5 billion USD to Myanmar for democratic transition, however nothing has been done for the current humanitarian needs. The UK on the other hand will provide nearly 1 million people in Myanmar with essential medical care within the first 6 months of 2025, and they announced an increase in humanitarian funding to Myanmar from 2024 to 2025 by 22.45 million GBP.

The Russian Federation - The Russian federation has continued to support the oppressive military regime in Myanmar by being the only major power to recognise the Military Junta's power seizure in 2021, and has been the biggest partner to them.

Similarly, Myanmar was the only ASEAN member to endorse Russia's invasion into Ukraine.

Questions to consider

Here are some questions, which may serve as a foundation for discussions and may help you shape your approach and perspective or the formation of your position and policy agenda:

How can Myanmar's resistance groups and civil society build a sustainable democratic framework that prevents future military coups?

How can international actors, including the UN and ASEAN, play a constructive role in facilitating a peaceful transition to democracy in Myanmar?

How can a future democratic government in Myanmar ensure stability while addressing the concerns of ethnic minorities and regional power struggles?

How can humanitarian aid be effectively delivered to displaced communities and victims of violence without empowering the military government?

What long-term humanitarian strategies should be considered to address poverty, displacement and food insecurity caused by the civil war?

What steps can be taken to address the humanitarian needs of displaced Rohingya communities, both within Myanmar and in refugee camps abroad?

Conclusion

Overall, the conflict in Myanmar is more complex than a two-sided civil war, instead, many different groups of different ethnicities, beliefs, and backgrounds hold power over land in Myanmar, leaving no stable political system to cater to the vulnerable populations. Not only will a solution to a proper government between so many parties be an issue, however it will also be a challenge to address all the humanitarian crises occurring throughout the nation, many of which are unknown to those outside of the affected areas. An oppressive military regime, over 100 ethnic groups in the country, and the determined and armed resistance groups, make for the prospect of a diplomatic solution be seemingly impossible, leaving it up to Myanmar's neighbours and the international community to bring back stability and democracy. So far Myanmar's

neighbours have failed them, and the 20 million desperate civilians in the country, as well as the millions displaced elsewhere.

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