

From The Author (August 2014)

The 28th revised edition of the book "Political Situation of Myanmar and its role in the Region" was published in April 2004 in English and in March 2013 the 29th revised and updated edition renamed "The Way I See It" (1988-2012) was published. At present this is the 30th revised and updated edition entitled "The Way I See It" (1988-2014) Book II. In this book new chapters entitled 'Tension And Conflict In The Rakhine State And The Bengali Intrusion On The Western Borders Of Myanmar', 'What Does Rohingya Really Mean', 'The Controversial Constitutional Amendments' and 'United States Imposes A Go It Alone Sanction Against Myanmar' and more information was added onto the chapter 'Government Of Myanmar In Cooperation With Various NGOs And Religious Organizations To Safeguard The Rights Of The Child' to give the readers an update on the situation on ground in Myanmar today.

Again it is the author's sincere hope that the readers will be able to look at the current developments and issues the country is encountering from a different perspective and to be able to make one's own assessment independently reflecting realities rather than being swayed by mainstream rhetoric from within the country and abroad at this important stage of the nation's development.

The author also will soon publish a Myanmar language version for the benefit of the readers who prefer to read in Myanmar. This soon to be published Myanmar language book will become the 6th revised and updated edition.

The author takes this opportunity to express his appreciation to all the readers in advance for taking interest and devoting their time in reading this book.

From The Author (April 2012)

The title of the book "Political Situation of Myanmar and its role in the Region" has now being renamed "The Way I See It (1988-2012)" in this current edition.

The 28th and the last revised edition of "Political Situation of Myanmar and Its Role in the Region" was published in April 2004 in English and the 4th and the last revised edition in Myanmar language was published in August 2004. Now, after 8 years, the author has managed to come up with the final revised edition to update and inform its readers of the development taking place in the country and the complex realities surrounding it. It is the author's sincere hope that the readers are able to realize his desired intentions by being able to look at the current developments from a different perspective and to be able to make one's own assessment independently reflecting realities rather than being swayed by mainstream rhetoric.

The new civilian government of the President U Thein Sein after the 2010 election started implementing the changes its people were longing for. Analysts noted that contrary to those of the Middle East, Myanmar's surprising reforms were not prompted by mass protest but came from the rulers themselves. It may be controversial to state that the changes to be made were already decided by the previous SPDC Government in 2003 when the 7 Step ROAD MAP was initially announced by then Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and only the time frame seems to be not yet fully decided upon.

Unfortunately, the author, his colleagues and his establishment were dismantled and many were incarcerated in October 2004 when then Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was removed from office due to internal political reason and put under house arrest. Years later due to the releasing of prisoners of conscience and others under the General Amnesty Act, the author was released in October 2011 after a 7 years stint of confinement. During this period of 7 years time, progress of development in the country varied in pace and depth while analysts from within and outside the country regarded the period as somewhat stagnant. Some observers even stated that the country took some backward steps, most obviously, in the area of peace process with the armed ethnic groups and also in the field of international relations among others.

Nevertheless, during this 7 years, business seems to be as usual in the country although, the nation's 7 Step ROAD MAP continued to be implemented, analysts agree that the ROAD MAP could have been more successfully implemented much sooner with better results if disruptions didn't take place in October 2004. But, as the saying goes "It is better late than never." But also due to the political will of the present elected government of U Thein Sein, significant and substantial positive changes are now taking place in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar today. This newly elected government has introduced a series of reforms on political, social and economic fronts which have been acclaimed by one and all. Significantly, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was welcomed by President U Thein Sein's government to take part in the by-elections held on 1st April 2012. She was elected as the Pyithu Hluttaw representative of

Kawhmu Township and will take her seat in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 23rd April 2012.

Moreover, the author being a professional soldier understands that the role and responsibilities of the military should be the same as any other militaries around the world, which is to defend its country and protect its citizens from harm. But due to the differences in the historical background, geopolitics, leadership and their policies, soldiers sometimes have to carry out task that they are not tailored for. Myanmar's military, unfortunately, falls into that category and for many decades took the role and responsibility which was not in its professional job scope. It is also an undeniable fact that although many positive things developed during these years, but due to lack of real "checks and balances" in the governing body, it was impossible becoming a clean government with good governance which the country is longing for. Today, Myanmar is going through a critical transition to transform itself into a functioning democracy with much needed support and assistance forthcoming from the international community. The country is now going through a challenging time with peace, stability, national unity and a sound economy essential for its peaceful transition to democracy to be a success. Hopefully, as the country's stability and prosperity grow, economic opportunities will grow and our political system will be able to develop and mature. This is the goal of all of us to see Myanmar become a flourishing member of the international community with sources of opportunities for a global economic development as well as to be an anchor of regional stability.

About The Author:



Second Lieutenant Hla Min
At The Frontier Area
In January 1977

Being the son of a career diplomat the author was born, has travelled and lived abroad in several countries during his childhood days and joined the Defence Services Academy in Myanmar in 1972 after finishing high school in Europe. After graduation from the academy in April, 1976 the author was assigned to the North East and South East regions of the country as an infantry combat

officer before being assigned to the head-quarters of the Ministry of Defence.

During his 32 years of service to the country the author was conferred with special awards such as the Good Military Service Medal, Gallantry Medal (Mentioned in Dispatches), Excellent Performance in Administrative Field (Class I), Excellent Performance in Administrative Field (Class II) among many others. To highlight some of his duties which includes dealing and handling of international media, acting as government spokesman in dealing with the international news media; presenting of country briefings to foreign dignitaries, foreign government officials, foreign non-governmental organizations, academicians and foreign delegations as well as groups and individuals interested in Myanmar affairs and carrying out special assignments concerning national interest. He has also travelled abroad extensively attending various international and regional functions including working and goodwill visits.

In October, 2004 the author, then Colonel Hla Min, was incarcerated for a period of 7 years together with hundreds of his colleagues when the then Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was removed from office and put under house arrest for reasons of internal politics. The author, after his release in October, 2011 a few weeks later in November, now a civilian, joined a successful and highly reputable energy related private Myanmar company in Yangon and currently serves as the General Manager. He is married with one daughter and in September, 2012 became a grandfather of his first grandchild.

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