

## Political essays, features, and personal recollections

"Kyaw Zwa Moe writes with great clarity and in a style that is always engaging. It's impossible to read these essays, like the memoirs of other Burmese who have gone to prison for their beliefs (something I don't think anybody who has not experienced it could ever really understand), and not admire the author's resilience and his efforts to provide objective and detached analysis."

—Thant Myint-U, writer and historian; author of *The River of Lost Footsteps: A Personal History of Burma* and other books

"This collection of articles from *The Irrawaddy* covers a wide range of issues that the author has written about for the magazine. It is, in a way, a testament to the determination of a generation that grew to political maturity during and after the uprising of 1988. Kyaw Zwa Moe describes the joy this generation felt at the NLD's landslide election victory in 1990, and its bitter despair when the party was barred from forming a government. He chronicles his years in prison, his departure from Burma in December 2000, the community of migrants, exiles and rebel fighters he encountered across the border, Burma's civil war, and even the plight of tribals from Burma, who are kept in what amounts to human zoos in Thailand. These are matters that should not be forgotten, and it is my hope that this book will serve as an inspiration to a younger generation of Burmese journalists, and, for that matter, to anyone interested in personal accounts of the country's long, often bloody, and still unfinished struggle for democracy."

—Bertil Lintner, writer and journalist; author of *Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma's Struggle for Democracy* and other books



KYAW ZWA MOE was a student activist and a political prisoner from 1991 to 1999 in Burma's notorious prisons for his role in the 1988 pro-democracy uprising, which toppled an authoritarian regime, and for clandestinely publishing and distributing the political journal *Oway*, which opposed the brutal military government that subsequently took power. After his release, he spent 12 years in exile as a journalist. He was a visiting scholar at the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley. He is senior editor of *The Irrawaddy* (English edition) and is the author of a Burmese-language anthology of interviews, *They Must Apologize to the People*.

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