

MYANMAR



Fall 2018

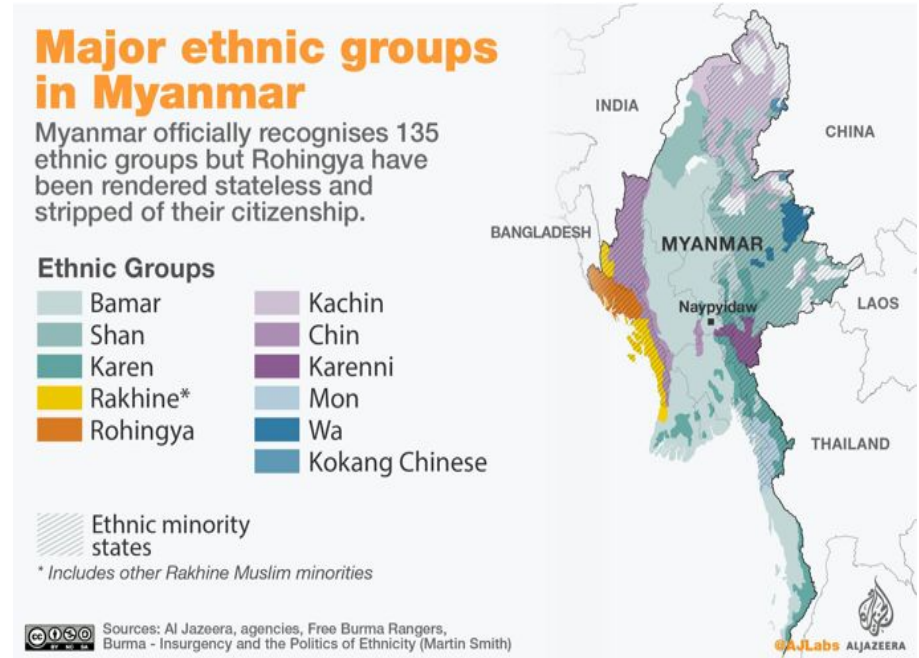
ECON-377-70

Yara Abdelmaged
Obadah Diab



Country Profile: Republic of the Union of Myanmar

- Capital: **Nay Pyi Taw**
- Population: **53 million (2017)**
- Currency: **Kyat**
- Area: **676,552 km²**
- Language: **Majority Burmese**
- Religion: **Majority Buddhist**
- President: **Win Myint**



cr. Al Jazeera



Economic Profile

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE

53.9

(▲ UP 1.4 POINTS)



61.0
REGIONAL AVERAGE
(ASIA-PACIFIC REGION)

61.1
WORLD AVERAGE

NOTABLE SUCCESSES:

Trade Freedom and
Government Size

CONCERNS:

Rule of Law, Investment Freedom,
and Financial Freedom

OVERALL SCORE CHANGE

SINCE 2014:
+7.4

GDP (PPP):

\$304.7 billion

6.3% growth in 2016 5-
year compound annual
growth 7.5% \$5,832 per
capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:

0.8%

INFLATION (CPI):

7.0%

FDI INFLOW:

\$2.2 billion

PUBLIC DEBT:

35.8% of GDP

cr. Index of Economic Freedom



Brief History

- British Colonial Rule
- Independence in 1948
- Military Coup in 1962
- Democratic Reforms Beginning in 2011



Aung San Suu Kyi

cr. Vanity Fair





Who are the Rohingya?

- Stateless, Muslim ethnic-minority group
- Own language and culture
- Estimated 1 million Rohingya living in Myanmar prior to the 2016–17 crisis
- Mostly concentrated in the coastal state of Rakhine
- Denied by the government and seen as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh
 - Post independence from the British in 1948
 - Union Citizenship Act
 - 1982 Citizenship law



“Textbook example of ethnic cleansing”

- Persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar dates back to the 1970s
 - Targeted by the government and nationalist Buddhists
- October 2016 police camp incident
- Major crackdown on Rohingya people in Rakhine State by armed forces and police
- As of 22 July 2018, according to the to the Needs and Population Monitoring exercise (NPM) there are **919,000 Rohingya refugees** in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

Satellite images show destroyed Rohingya village



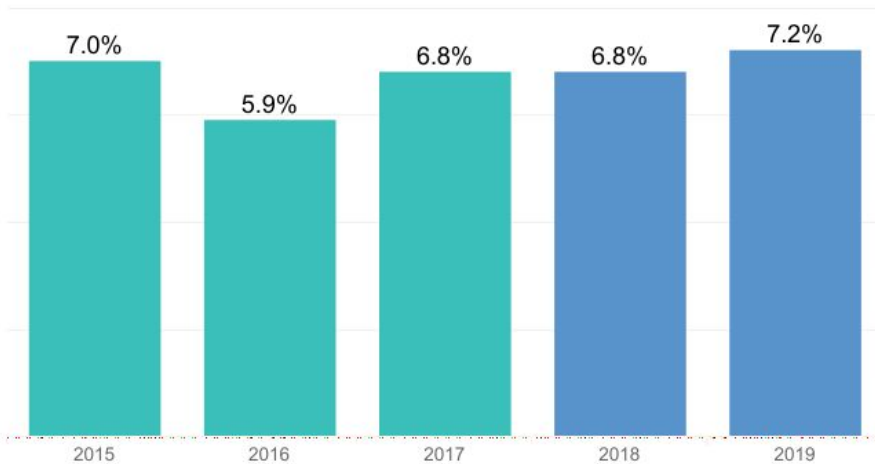
Source: Human Rights Watch, Satellite image 21 September 2017



The Status of Myanmar's Economy

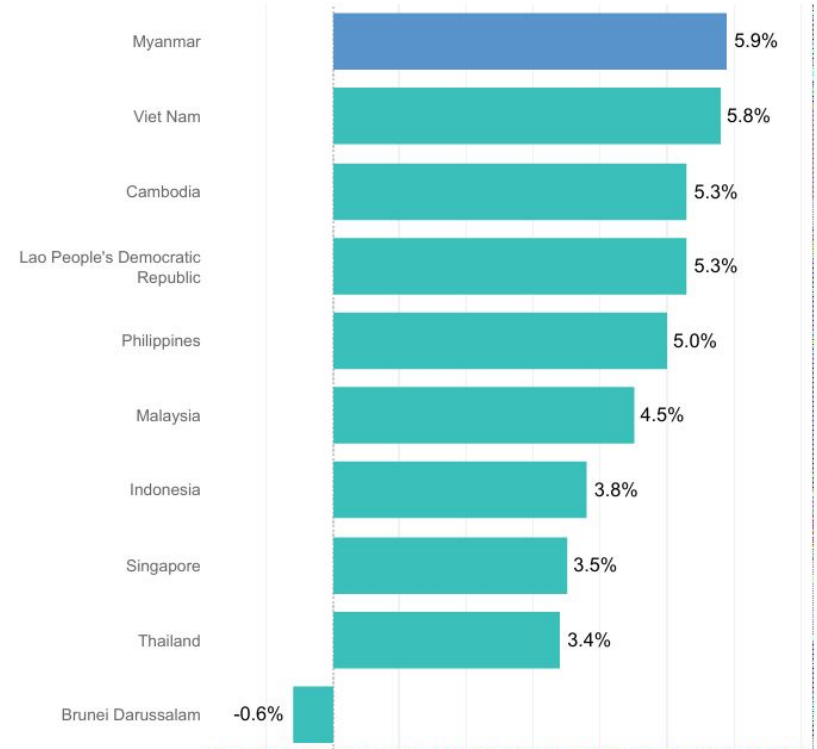
- Agriculture-based Economy
- Low Wages

GDP Growth Rate: Myanmar
(% per year)



Source: Asian Development Bank. *Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2018*

Per Capita GDP Growth Rate, 2017
(% per year)

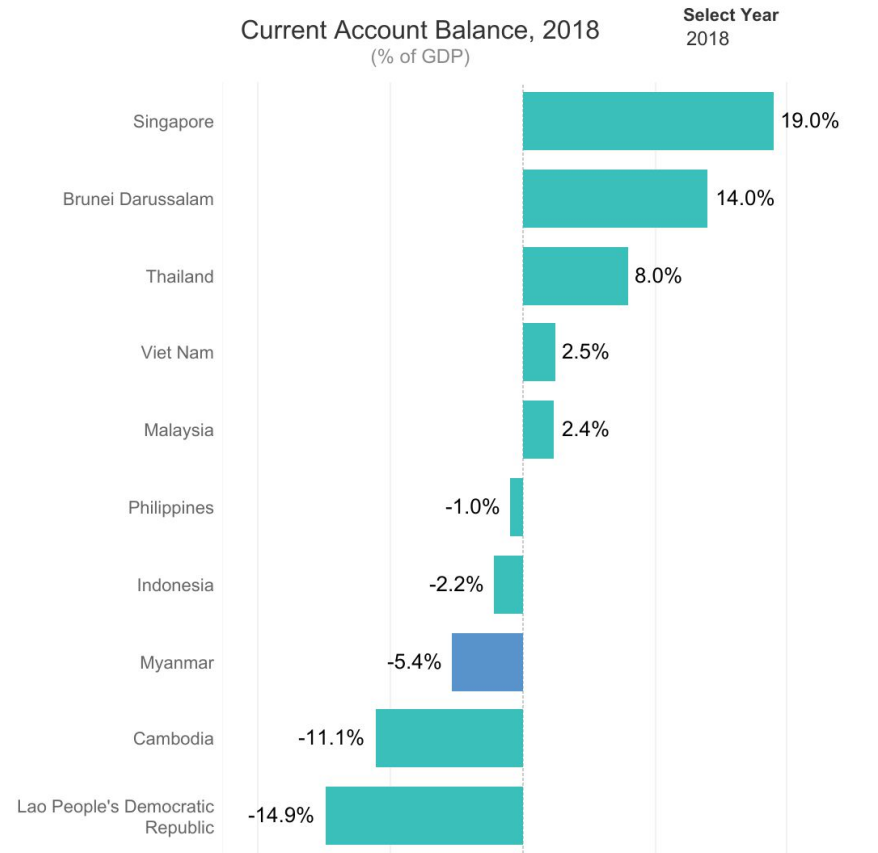


Source: Asian Development Bank. *Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2018*



Trade

- Net Exports constitute 43% of GDP
- Trade Sanctions
- Current Account Deficit
- Low FDI
- Agricultural Exports
 - Rice
 - Illegal Exportation of Opium



Source: Asian Development Bank. *Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2018*



Summary

Internal Issues

- **Political Stability**
- **Poverty:** 37% of people still live near or below the poverty line
- **Health care:** Myanmar has the lowest life expectancy and the second-highest rate of infant and child mortality
- **Nutrition:** Myanmar has the lowest life expectancy and the second-highest rate of infant and child mortality
- **Education:** The school dropout rate is high

External Issues

- **Trade Sanctions**
- **International Relations:** long period of international isolation



Development Strategy

- Address the *incomplete peace process* with the **ethnic armed groups** and the **crisis in Rakhine State**
- **Reduce** rural poverty
- **Invest** in national community-driven development projects
- **Invest** in people and effective institutions
- **Decentralize funding** to schools
- **Support** the private sector to create jobs
- **Improve** investment climate and banking sector
- Financial-sector **liberalization**
- **Capitalize** on fast-growing labor-intensive export industries
- *Exploitation of new offshore gas fields* → will encourage growth



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