

## BURMESE HAZE: US POLICY AND MYANMAR'S OPENING — AND CLOSING

BY ERIN MURPHY — ASIA SHORTS BOOK SERIES

### SUGGESTED COURSES:

- History - South East Asia
- International Relations

### KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

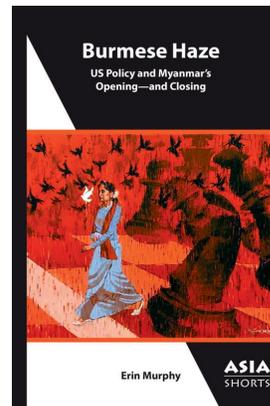
- Democracy promotion
- Sanctions
- Multilateral diplomacy
- Human rights
- National reconciliation
- Buddhist nationalism

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think diplomatic engagement is an effective tool? How did it play a role in the opening of Myanmar after 2011? Is there a case to withdraw or cut off official engagement (for example Cuba, Myanmar, North Korea)?
2. Are sanctions an effective way of changing government behavior or addressing key foreign policy concerns overseas? How can they be deployed effectively in a foreign policy crisis (for example, China in a Taiwan Straits Crisis, human rights abuses, Russia's war in Ukraine, etc.)?
3. How do you view Aung San Suu Kyi's role in Myanmar and U.S. policy in Burma?
4. Could Aung San Suu Kyi have prevented atrocities against the Rohingya? Could the U.S. have done anything further to prevent the violence?
5. What were the most important factors leading to the brief democratic opening that began in 2011? Who were the key players?
6. What is the role of U.S. foreign policy in promoting democracy in the world? Should this be a responsibility of the U.S.?
7. What is China's role in Myanmar? How does Myanmar play into China's domestic and international concerns?
8. What are the prospects for national reconciliation in Myanmar? What are the prospects for peace among the ethnic armed groups in the country?

### EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:

- <https://aappb.org>
- <https://www.csis.org/people/erin-l-murphy>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/home>
- <https://mm.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/>
- <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/178>



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*“Murphy provides a unique insider’s look at US engagement with Myanmar, detailing the successes, pitfalls, and humorous moments in a fleeting moment of optimism between the two countries.”*

– **TIMOTHY MCLAUGHLIN**, Contributing Writer at *The Atlantic*

*“A thoughtful, well-paced, and incredibly timely account of the complex diplomatic efforts that led to Burma’s rapprochement with the West and the challenges that have faced Washington’s Burma policy ever since.”*

–**THANT MYINT-U**, author of *The Hidden History of Burma: Race, Capitalism, and the Crisis of Democracy in the 21st Century*

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