

# Research due to recent reforms of democratization

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RESEARCHPAPER TOPIC: ROLE OF ASEAN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION: CASE  
STUDY OF MYANMAR SUBMITTEDBY: AMIRA JAVEED TABLE OF

CONTENTABSTRACTINTRODUCTIONTO THE

TOPICBACKGROUNDCURRENTSITUATION IN MYANMARSOCIALASPECT

POLITICALASPECT ECNOMICALASPECT

RESEARCHQUESTIONHYPOTHESISASEANAND MYANMARASEANAND RECENT

ROHINGYA CRISESCONCLUSIONREFERENCESABSTRACTTheResearch was

conducted on ASEAN and its role in Conflict Resolution and my main focus will be on Myanmar. Myanmar is the south East Asian nation of more than 100 ethnic groups. It borders with India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand.

The largest city of Myanmar is Yangon and the population of Myanmar is 52.89 million (2016). ASEAN was formed in 1967 and Myanmar has joined ASEAN as a member state in 1997 after 10 years of its formation. Currently 10 states are associated with ASEAN. Myanmar has a record of world longest ongoing conflict.

Due to recent reforms of democratization Myanmar came under the light of media and the recent ethnic conflict caught the attention of international community.

Through my findings I have highlighted the role of ASEAN in Myanmar and I will sort out how far ASEAN is successful in conflict resolution in Myanmar and if it is not successful then I will find out the reasons why ASEAN is ineffective in conflict resolution in Myanmar.

The findings of the research are based on a close and careful study of different

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books, article and research papers. I had watched different documentaries related to current situation in Myanmar for this purpose.

INTRODUCTION ASEAN is the Association of South East Nations is a regional organization aims to promote economic, political and security cooperation among its members states. It is formed in 2 August 1967.

Since its formation Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand are its members. Later its membership is expanded to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Currently there are 10 members' states.

The ASEAN was founded during cold war aims to promote stability in the region. This association was further expanded to create ASEAN PLUS THREE forum in 1977 which include Japan, South Korea and China. The organization strive toward peace and stability in the region, the member states have develop a treaty not to develop nuclear weapon and most have agreed on counter terrorism pact which include sharing intelligence and easing the extradition process of terror suspect. ASEAN's claims to opening up of Myanmar is most significant recent achievements, having monitored a policy of positive engagement and non-confrontation.

Myanmar joined ASEAN as a member on 23 July 1997. ASEAN approved Myanmar as a member despite objection from international community, which consider Myanmar as a crook country because a country is governed by military rule defendant of human rights violation. In 2014 Myanmar hosted successfully ASEAN annual summit in its new political capital Nay Pyi Taw and started its new chapter of engagement with regional group. Despite lack

of diplomatic experience the country the country has successfully organize more than 1000 meetings that the organization holds each year.

After years of dictatorship Myanmar in 2015 military rule was peacefully resigned leadership to National League for Democracy (NLD) led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who won majority in national and regional level through election. It was the best event in for ASEAN and ASEAN consider Myanmar as a success story. Beside this success story Myanmar is not that much successful in regional initiative such as upholding in human rights etc. focusing on democracy and human rights issue the role of ASEAN in Myanmar is still limited. 2 BACKGROUND Burma has the greatest number of outfitted ethnic uprisings of all the part states in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and a settled regular limitation to the choice military organization. The ethnic uprisings began in 1948 while regular confinement has grown more open in the midst of the latest decade. There are seven formally renowned ethnic social occasions in Burma isolated from the Burman overwhelming part: the Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni (Kayah), Mon, Rakhine (Arakanese) and Shan.

This, in any case, fails to consider incalculable talking more than 100 lingos. This ethnic not too bad assortment and these ethno-loyalist objectives, joined with the communist advancement, shaped irritating issues. 3 Myanmar got independence on 4 January 1948, named the Union of Burma with Sao Shwe Thaik as its first President and U Nu as its first Prime Minister. Majority rules system completed in 1962 when General Ne Win drove a military overthrow. He oversaw for around 26 years and looked for after plans under the rubric of the Burmese Way to Socialism.

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In the vicinity of 1962 and 1974, Burma was directed by a dynamic board headed by the general, and about all parts of society (business, media, creation) were nationalized or brought under government control (counting the Boy Scouts). With a ultimate objective to consolidate control, General Ne Win and many best officers surrendered from the military and took non military staff posts and, from 1974, set up races in a one get-together system. In the region of 1974 and 1988, Burma was satisfactorily overseen by General Ne Win through the Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP). In 1988, trouble over money related screw up and political mishandle by the organization incited in all cases virtuoso vote based framework shows all through the country known as the 8888 Uprising. Security powers butchered a large number of demonstrators, and General Saw Maung sorted out defiance and confined the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). In 1989, SLORC articulated military law after no matter how you look at it questions. The military government closed plans for People's 4 Assembly races on 31 May 1989.

SLORC changed the country's real English name from the " Union of Burma " to the " Union of Myanmar " in 1989. In May 1990, the governing body held free races unprecedented for practically 30 years. The National League for Democracy (NLD), the get-together of Aung San Suu Kyi, won 392 out of a total 489 seats, however the choice comes to fruition were repudiated by SLORC, which declined to wander down. Driven by Than Shwe since 1992, the military organization has impacted stop to fire concurrences with most ethnic guerilla social occasions. In 1992, SLORC revealed plans to make another constitution through the National Convention, which began 9 January 1993. In

1997, the State Law and Order Restoration Council was renamed the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). On 23 June 1997, Myanmar was surrendered into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Current situation in Myanmar To describe the current situation we will look at the political, legal, economic, social and aspect of the country.

**POLITICAL AND LEGAL ASPECT** Administered by military junta (1962-now), with loaded with intimidation and no popular government · Numerous pro democracy activists, common social orders, and restriction components have been stifled, confined, and imprisoned without reasonable legal process (counting priests), and some of them were executed · Condemned and squeezed by Western nations, and additionally UN (and ASEAN for some expands), yet moderately close with India, China, and Russia (in 2007, the SC draft determination about human rights infringement was vetoed by Russia and China) · To a great degree degenerate state (rank 178 of 180 nations in 2008 Transparency International's CPI). · Junta utilizing hostile to subversive and inner security constitution to destruct the democratization procedure. · 2008 constitution submission guaranteed to held Election in 2010 and perform " vote based system" later on.

**ECOMICAL ASPECT** · Until 1960's, Myanmar was the wealthiest nation in Southeast Asia and the world's biggest exporter of rice. · Since administered by junta administration, normal rate of yearly GDP development just 2, 9%, GDP per capita USD 233 and expansion rate achieve 30-60% · Restricted venture and exchanging from US and other Western nations · Remote venture comes basically from China, Singapore, South Korea, India, and Thailand (India is the greatest financial specialist in regular assets and

industry). · Absence of frameworks, with the exception of in Thai outskirts, through which the fundamental unlawful medications are trade. · World's second biggest maker of opium, and increasing national salary through illicit medications (some banks got 40% commission from cash clothing)— some of them worked together with MOGE (national oil organization).

SOCIAL ASPECT · 55 million populaces, with more than 295, 800 outcasts exist along Indian, Bangladeshi and Thai borders while a few thousand are in Malaysia. · 135 unmistakable ethnic gatherings, with 108 dialects. Bamar is the greatest ethnic, with 68% of populace and Buddhist is the greatest religion. · Human Development Index 0, 583 (rank 132). · Minority ethnic and religious mistreatment to join the armed force or land government positions, the principle course to achievement in the nation.

· UN distinguished substantial human rights infringement, including enormous assault and executing of Karen minority ethnic by military. · Military junta confines the universal helpful aids to keep the general population's reliance from government. · There are 101 colleges, 12 foundations, 9 degree schools and 24 universities in Burma. RESEARCH QUESTION Why the role of ASEANS is not effective in conflict resolution in conflict resolution in MYANMAR? HYPOTHESIS I think the best hypothesis to my research question is that non-interference policy is retarding ASEAN from taking meaningful action for conflict resolution. ASEAN AND MYANMAR As we know from the earliest that Myanmar joining of ASEAN is not that easy process. There were many opposition of Myanmar admission into ASEAN not only from external but internal from ASEAN itself due to undemocratic system and military rule in ASEAN.

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In the face of all these difficult situations Myanmar realizes that in the age of Globalization and regionalism living in Isolation is not only difficult but it could May also be thread to the survival of the county. So joining of any regional organization became priority of the Myanmar at that time. But being the member of ASEAN still not be able deal with political change and democratic transition in Myanmar. There was not such work has been done by ASEAN to resolve the problem related to the military rule in Myanmar till 2015. If we look at the history the conflict in Myanmar is most intractable conflict in the whole world. Myanmar holds a record of 60 years ongoing civil war.

More than 100 ethnic groups are fighting with each other to preserve their identity in front of majority Burman. The civil war started in 1948 with independence from British colonial rule. Many ethnic rebellion and communist insurgency became a reason behind the failure of parliamentary system formed after getting independence. To restore the country situation military took over the government and then the military rule continued for five decades. In 2004 military first step toward slow transition to democratic rule. New constitution was made in 2004 and in 2010 election was held. Democratic government emerges in 2011. Next elections were held in 2015 and Daw Su Kyi party came into power by winning 80% seats through fair elections.

In the Southeast Asian politics the policy of non-interference in the affairs of states is very important and this noninterference principle limits the role of ASEAN in Myanmar. In resolve conflict ASEAN prefer the informal approach focusing on relationships rather than formal structure. These are called soft approach. In Myanmar issues ASEAN is using soft approaches. In 42 ASEAN <https://assignbuster.com/research-due-to-recent-reforms-of-democratization/>



Ministerial meeting in Thailand the Prime minister of Thailand said “ the soft way (ASEAN Way) approaches are more productive rather than sanction mechanism that will make Myanmar more isolated.” Non- interference policy limit the role of ASEAN and Myanmar itself realize that summit diplomacy and consensus building is not enough for solving its issues therefore Myanmar refuse to debate its problems with ASEAN. ASEAN role is limited in Myanmar not only because of non - interference policy but also due lack of commitment from member states regarding human rights and conflict management. Non - interference policy is considered the central pillar of Southeast Asian regionalism but on the other hand this policy is also underpinning ASEAN from taking meaningful action like tackling with economic crises and security issues.

The role played by ASEAN in Myanmar is not proved by any resolution. ASEAN is playing the role of forum. There are different meetings in the forum to discuss any problem. ASEAN is providing forum for a countries to discuss their issues related to conflict resolution. Many meeting took place in this forum for conflict resolution for example in 2000 ASEAN established ASEAN troika to enhance interaction and address the issue like regional peace and harmony. In 2003 ASEAN planned ASEAN security community which declared that member states should promote political development to achieve peace, stability and security in the region. Myanmar is not only using ASEAN as a forum but also as an instrument. Myanmar is using ASEAN basic principle Non- interference to avoid participation of ASEAN in its internal affairs.

It's clearly showed that ASEAN don't like those other parties interfere in its internal affairs especially ASEAN. Myanmar is failed to response ASEAN rather

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it is instrumentalizing the organization. ASEAN and Rohingyas Crises<sup>8</sup>The Rohingyas crises started in June 2012. At first there was communal riot between Rohingya Muslim and Rakhine Buddhist and later it turned into persecution and forced displacement of Muslim minority. Now five years later this issue is turned into humanitarian crises and it's a time for ASEAN to take important steps to resolve the issue and to present a regional response. The ASEAN regions to which Myanmar is also a member is regionally, politically and economically interconnected. It means the humanitarian crises and the conflict growing in one country can cause regional security threat. For solution of such kind of threat Myanmar has to change its attitude toward ASEAN and has to engage itself with others partners of ASEAN.

Although ASEAN respects the sovereignty and Non-interference policy of other states, the regional grouping has now started work on conflict resolution, humanitarian issue and security promotion. <sup>8</sup>An ASEAN nation has to promote preventive diplomacy, prevent conflicts and problems and address issues at both local and regional level. They ASEAN expressed its full support for Myanmar in order to bring peace, stability, rule of law and to promote reconciliation between various committees. ASEAN will lose its credibility and confidence of international committee if it continues to ignore the plight of Rohingya. It has to act earlier to prevent Rohingya crises to become regional issue. If ASEAN will be unable to contain these crises it will open up the concept of Deepening cultural and religious division and potential danger of identity politics will be increased. CONCLUSION<sup>9</sup>ASEAN's guideline of non-interference has permitted the part states to focus on country building and administration strength while keeping up agreeable ties with different states.

While ASEAN's standard has never been outright, and has frequently been utilized as a device for legitimizing state-conduct in light of a legitimate concern for the overwhelming political and monetary first class, lately regular interests have come to assume a more vital part in the affiliation's lead of provincial issues. This is occurring in light of expanding reliance among the part states and the developing acknowledgment that standards of good administration ought to be considered all together for the relationship to recapture importance and believability among the area's own nationals and also on the more extensive worldwide scene. In this regard, the rule's capacity as a managing light for the affiliation's conduct in territorial issues has turned out to be progressively delicate as of late. With its new arrangement of taking into account open feedback of other states' issues where local security is in question, together with a more emphatic position on human rights, ASEAN has moved past its conventional non-obstruction approach. However, the non-obstruction guideline, as it is deciphered today, still goes about as a relatively solid restriction on ASEAN's conduct in territorial issues. The rule's directing capacity is truly undermined, yet to date another set of principles as a suitable substitution for the non-obstruction strategy demonstrates hard to create in light of the proceeding with local precariousness in a considerable lot of the part states. 1 Prospect for UN-ASEAN Cooperation in Conflict Management, by M. C.

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in Myanmar by DavidRaja Marpuang S. IP M. Def 7 Myanmar and ASEAN build  
their relationship 8 ASEAN summit silence on Rohingyas ' anabsolute  
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