

1: State of Burma - Wikipedia

Changing Visions of East Asia, Transformations and Continuities (Routledge Studies in the Modern History of Asia Book 40) - Kindle edition by R.B. Smith, Chad Mitcham. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets.

Background[edit] During the early stages of World War II , the Empire of Japan invaded British Burma primarily to obtain raw materials which included oil from fields around Yenangyaung , minerals and large surpluses of rice , and to close off the Burma Road , which was a primary link for aid and munitions to the Chinese Nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek which had been fighting the Japanese for several years in the Second Sino-Japanese War. The BIA formed a provisional government in some areas of the country in the spring of , but there were differences within the Japanese leadership over the future of Burma. While Colonel Suzuki encouraged the BIA to form a provisional government, the Japanese military leadership had never formally accepted such a plan and the Japanese government held out only vague promises of independence after the end of the war. However, a Burmese Executive Administration was established in Rangoon on 1 August with the aim of creating a civil administration to manage day-to-day administrative activities subordinate to the Japanese military administration. The head of the provisional administration was Dr. Ba Maw , a noted lawyer and political prisoner under the British. Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere[edit] As the war situation gradually turned against the Japanese, the Japanese government decided that Burma and the Philippines would become fully independent as part of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere , contrary to the original plan that independence only be granted after the completion of the war. The Japanese government felt that this would give the Burmese a real stake in an Axis victory in the Second World War , creating resistance against possible re-colonization by the western powers, and increased military and economic support from Burma for the Japanese war effort. On 1 August , Burma was proclaimed the independent State of Burma and the Japanese military government for Burma was officially dissolved. Ba Maw became "Naingandaw Adipadi" head of state of Burma under the new constitution, with wide powers. Kengtung and Mongpan , which had already been given to Thailand. Though now nominally independent, the power of the State of Burma to exercise its sovereignty was largely circumscribed by wartime agreements with Japan. The Imperial Japanese Army maintained a large presence and continued to act arbitrarily, despite Japan no longer having official control over Burma. During and , the Burma National Army made contacts with other political groups inside Burma, including the Communist Party of Burma which had been operating underground. Through the communists and the Japanese-sponsored Arakan Defence Army , the Burmese were eventually able to make contact with the British Force in India. The initial contacts were always indirect. In December , the AFO contacted the Allies , indicating their readiness to defect to the Allied cause by launching a national uprising which would include the forces of BNA. However, this was opposed by the British, who considering the timing to be unfavorable, and who had considerable reservations about supporting the BNA. On 27 March , the remainder of the BNA paraded in Rangoon and marched out ostensibly to assist the Japanese army in the battles then raging in Central Burma against invading Allied forces. Instead, the BNA openly declared war on the Japanese. Aung San and others subsequently began negotiations with Lord Mountbatten and officially joined the Allies as the Patriotic Burmese Forces.

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