

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BURMA

(1947 – 1968)

Ph.D (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation focuses on the Movements of the Communist Party of Burma (1947-1968). It concentrates on how the CPB came into existence and continues to study its implications during and after the Independence of the Union of Myanmar. Its interest then shifts to the movements of the CPB during the period 1948 to 1957 and then from 1958 to 1968. This dissertation then studies how the Communist ideology filtered into Myanmar and how the CPB began to have correspondence and communication with the Communist party of India. The CPB was first secretly formed and during the struggle for Burmese Independence there appeared differences of opinion within the Party. The CPB then became part of the Anti-Fascist Organization and later was a legally organized body. Due to Browder's ideology the CPIB was divided into two rival organizations. Then the Communist Party of Burma was expelled from the AFPFL. However when Myanmar declared its Independence the CPB went underground because of its belief in armed struggle. During its heyday, at the peak of its military and political strength the CPB declared that it would win the war within two years. The CPB then corresponded and communicated with the CCP. The CCP's directive of peace talks ('55' programme) were fully endorsed by the CPB. After laying down its policy of peace and reconciliation, the CPB began to organize small cells within the students, workers and the intelligentsia of Myanmar. There were peace talks with the Yangon Government, but they finally collapsed. The CPB members who were trained in China came back and, took key posts within the CPB's central Committee and Politbureau. The conflict of views inside the CPB intensified after the 1964 programme was announced. The CPB became simply an

organization of killers and murderers, and it became a very destructive party so that its leader Thakin Than Tun was finally assassinated by one of his followers. The CPB lost its charm and attractiveness for the Myanmar people because the Myanmar are really Buddhists at heart. Buddhism teaches love, compassion, tolerance and altruism, where as Communism teaches class struggle, hatred and violence.

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