

ELECTIONS IN MYANMAR
(1947-1960)

Ph.D (DISSERTATION)

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MARCH 2018

ABSTRACT

The Myanmar delegation and the British Government signed the Aung San-Atlee Agreement successfully on 27 January 1947. Then, the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) led by Bogyoke Aung San held an election on 9 April 1947 to be able to establish the Constituent Assembly. The aims of this Assembly were to call the Constituent Assembly, to draw the state Constitution and to gain the independence from the British. Although the State Constitution promised that the election had to be held 18 months after the restoration of the independence, it was postponed many times and could be held only in June 1951, 48 months later than the designated date. But, the election could not be held on a nation-wide scale but had to be held at three different times. When the election was finished for the first time, all the opposing parties held an unfair election conference and protested against the election. As prescribed by the Constituent Assembly, the election was held for the second time four years later, on 27 April 1956. Just before this election, the National United Front (NUF) which was composed of leftist political parties, the rivals of the AFPFL, appeared and run in the election with the slogan claiming that the NUF would ensure internal peace. However, the AFPFL won the election with the majority of the seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw and was able to form the government at the Parliament. However, as the political situation was not stable, the Caretaker Government took office and then declared that the third election would be held on 6 February 1960. The Clean AFPFL, the Stable AFPFL and the NUF became main rivals during this election period. Finally, the Clean AFPFL won the election. There were four elections that held in Myanmar during a decade and half after independence.

They were 1947 elections, 1951-52 elections, 1956 elections and 1960 elections. In all those elections, the power holding Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) won with majority landslide. Any strong opposition party that could compete with the AFPFL did not appear in those elections. This dissertation is an attempt to analyze these situations.

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