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Chapter 4. The Revival of Myanmarism

Meanwhile, Bangladesh’s eastern neighbor, Burma, has strengthened herself by reviving Myanmarism in the last 17 years. Myanmarism is a powerful *ultranationalism* that has produced the First (circa 1057-1297 CE), the Second (1540-1599 CE), and the Third (1753-1885 CE) Myanmar Empires. The followings are some phenotypes exhibited by the rise of Myanmarism. (*Note:* Phenotype is a biological term that covers the anatomical, physiological characteristics and behavioral phenomena of an organism. It is determined by the organism’s genotype, which is the makeup of genetic structure and function. Here I am using the biological term for I, being a Social Darwinist, classify a nation as a living organism). The followings are some characteristics of today’s Myanmar ultranationalism or *Myanmarism*.

Our Mother land which Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayinnaung, Alaungphaya, Sinbyushin, and Bogyoke Aung San had built up nurtured and consolidated through ages, cannot be allowed to be in disorder and to disintegrate during our time. (Sr. General Saw Maung, 1989).

တပ်မတော်သည် အမျိုးသားရေးကို ဘယ်တော့မှ သစ္စာမဖောက်

Armed Forces will never betray national cause

နိုင်ငံတော် ခွဲစိတ်ပုံ အခြေခံ ဥပဒေ
 ပေါ်ပေါက်ရေးသည်
 ပြည်ထောင်စုသား အားလုံး၏
 ဝန်ထမ်းမှုသာ တာဝန် ဖြစ်သည်။

Emergence
 of
 State Constitution is
 the primary duty of all Union Peoples

ဒို့တာဝန် အရေးသုံးပါး
 ပြည်ထောင်စု မပြိုကွဲရေး - ဒို့အရေး
 တိုင်းရင်းသား စည်းလုံး ညီညွတ်မှု မပြိုကွဲရေး - ဒို့အရေး
 အချုပ်အခြာ အာဏာ တည်တံ့ ခိုင်မြဲရေး - ဒို့အရေး

Our three main national causes

Non - disintegration of the Union - Our cause!
 Non - disintegration of National Solidarity - Our cause!
 Consolidation of National Sovereignty - Our cause!



The person who resolutely revived and strengthened Myanmarism was Sr. General Saw Maung (1928-1997 CE) who inherited General Ne Win’s military dynasty in 1988. He was a general at the time of succession to the power. Sr. General Saw Maung addressed the nation on the 23rd September 1988 after his ascension to power on the 18th instant. He promoted himself to a 5-star Senior General in 1989. He was born in 1928 in Mandalay, and was commonly known as a Mandalay-thar, meaning a son of Mandalay - a very common Myanmar expression. Complicated with diabetes mellitus and alcoholism he died of an heart attack at Rangoon, in 1997. {Now just a joke: In Burma we say all sons and daughters of Mandalay (Mandalay-thar Mandalay-thu) are related to Mindon Min, the second last Burmese king, since he is known to have more than 300 wives. Now, this is a fact: More than forty of his sons with different wives were killed by his

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minor queen Laungshe, a Shan princess, who masterminded to put her son, Thibaw, to the throne. The British dethroned King Thibaw in 1885. Besides King Mindon, was there any other man known to have more than 40 sons in the history?}

The following is a piece of excerpt from the address delivered at the 44th Anniversary of Resistance Day (Armed Forces Day, 1989) by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, Senior General Saw Maung. This address signifies the rise of Myanmarism.

Chapter 4 contains 1 table, 21 illustrations and 3 maps incorporated under the following subheadings.

4.1. Myanmar Way and Myanmar Style
Myanmar-hmuu Myanmar-han

(မြန်မာ့ မြန်မာနိ)

- 4.2. The Historical Myanmarism.
- 4.3. Myanmar Constitutionalism to Colonialism.
- 4.4. Scientific Myanmarism.
- 4.5. Sacred Myanmarism.
- 4.6. Mystic Myanmarism.
- 4.7. Ideological Myanmarism.
- 4.8. Dirty Myanmarism.