

Preview of *The Price of Silence: Muslim-Buddhist War of Bangladesh and Myanmar* by Shwe Lu Maung *alias* Shahnawaz Khan, published by DewDrop Arts & Technology, USA. ISBN 1-928840-03-5. Copyright © Shahnawaz Khan 2005. All Rights Reserved.

The book is planned to get published in September 2005. It will be printed **black and white**, with full color cover. For more information contact email: dewdrop@shwelumaung.org.

Chapter-5. Behind the Rise of Myanmarism

The manifestations of Myanmarism, which I described in the previous chapter, are *the effects*, but not *the causes* of the rise of Myanmarism. In every phenomenon there is a cause that leads to the manifestation of the effect. In biological world, there always is a genetic factor that modulates the phenotype of an organism. In the case of Myanmar, I identify three factors that create and modulate the form of Myanmarism that we see in post-1988 Burma.

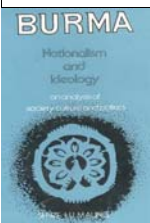
Factor-1. East-West Confrontation.

Factor-2. Communist Danger.

Factor-3. Islamic Expansionism.

Prior going into the details of these factors I must make the reader acquainted with the Myanmar transition from pre-1988 to post-1988. I presented a concise account of the transition from pre-1988 to post-1988 in the 'Preface' of my book, *Burma: Nationalism and Ideology*, University Press Ltd., Dhaka, 1989. With some grammatical polish, I am reproducing it here so that the reader will get well acquainted with Burma's 1988.

'Preface' of my book, *Burma: Nationalism and Ideology*



Preface

This book presents an analysis of Burmese society, culture and politics in a search for the root causes of the events in Burma.

Tens of thousands of Burmese including school girls and boys gave their lives in the streets of Rangoon, Mandalay, and other cities across the country during the Great Democratic Movement which took place from March to September 1988. The democratic world, regardless of ideology, religion, and culture, watched with dismay when the military regime brutally crushed the Movement. Once again 'Might' won over 'Reasons' and a civilization was put to death in Burma.

The Burmese political volcano has been building up pressure for the last 26 years under the repressive heat of the military government. Its eruption in 1988 shooting out the lava of blood across the nation is a major landmark in the political history of the world.

Things to ponder

In the last week of August 1988, when the Burmese pro-democracy uprising was at its peak, my good friend Red Comrade U Oo Khin Maung, a politburo member of the Arakan Communist Party and Joint Secretary of the National United Front of Arakan walked into my office in Dhaka. After exchanging pleasantries he took a seat in front of me and put on his standard humble and gentle smile. Then, I realized that a rosy silver bullet was on its way. He said, "So! *Brother* Shwe Lu Maung, you believe that the Bama military government will be thrown out this time?"

"Brother" or '*Ako*' is our Rakhaing traditional civility used to address to each other among men. 'Bama' is the indigenous word for the Burmese.

I replied, "It is so *Ako* Oo Khin Maung. I believe that the Bama military government will be overthrown this time."

"How can you believe so when what is going on is nothing but the '*Paris Commune*' in Burma?" He stunned me with these words.

"How can you say that!?", was all that I could say.

Today, I worship him just for that discourse. One should never undermine the wisdom of a *Red Comrade*.

(Note. My article *The Third Dimension of 8.8.88*, Arakanpsot, Issue-5, July 2004, gives detail account of the 'Paris Commune in Burma'. You may read it at <http://shwelumaung.org/publications/series4.pdf>).

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Chapter 5 contains 2 table, 8 illustrations, 1 chart and 2 maps incorporated under the following subheadings.

- 5.1. East-West Confrontation.
- 5.2. Communist Danger.
- 5.3. Islamic Expansionism.

Note: I am updating my earlier book, *Burma: Nationalism and Ideology*. Hopefully, I will be able to publish it in the middle of 2006.