

RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA, CHINA AND THE MYANMAR

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ABSTRACT

The year 2015 proves to be an important transition year for Myanmar as the National League for Democracy (NLD) swept the election with clear mandate ousting 50 years of Military rule. Nevertheless, victorious NLD faces a challenging task in translating its promises to actions as the constitution of Myanmar drafted by the military junta (or Tatmadaw) still upholds military supremacy and controls important subjects of governance thereby relinquishing its dominance. Besides the complex internal situation, there is also a deliberation over Myanmar's relations to the outside world especially with its neighbors India and China. As NLD takes its seat in Myanmar there is a general perception over its approaches towards India and China who have long been Myanmar's engaging partners. As NLD foundation lay embedded in democratic features India feels it has its card to play since India display one of the largest democratic nation. On the other hand, China feels that despite a brief hostility and anti- Chinese sentiment it can still play an active role in Myanmar as it understands Myanmar better than other nations. Within the two considerations, Myanmar as a self-independent nation should give equal priority to all nations including India and China. Its foreign policy should be dictated by the rational approach with a view to open and accessible to the outside world.

KEYWORDS: Myanmar, National League for Democracy, Tatmadaw, India, China