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**ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AS A MEANS  
TO ENFORCE HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA (MYANMAR)**

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the  
degree of Master of Philosophy in Development Studies at Massey  
University, Palmerston North, New Zealand

By

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(URL: <http://www.iie.com/research/topics/sanctions/myanmar.htm>)

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Malaysia instead of *Malay*

*This work is dedicated  
to the diverse Burmese peoples  
who have suffered too much for nearly half-century.*

## **ABSTRACT**

Since the end of the Cold War, human rights has become a central focus of international relationships, especially the relationship between developed countries (the West) and developing countries (the Rest). Burma is one of the developing countries whose relationship with Western governments is premised on the issue of human rights. In the pursuit of human rights enforcement, the United States and the European Union employ economic sanctions against Burma.

While economic sanctions are designed to encourage a transition to democratic rule and a greater respect for human rights, studies show that little attention has been paid to the effectiveness of such measurements. In this study, a literature review and a field research are carried out as an effort to assess the effectiveness of economic sanctions in Burma.

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## Glossary

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|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ABSDF   | All Burma Students Democratic Front                              |
| ADB     | Asian Development Bank   |
| AFPFL   | Anti-Fascist-People's Freedom League                             |
| AI      | Amnesty International  |
| AL      | Arab League  |
| ASEAN   | Association of Southeast Asian Nations                           |
| BCP     | Burmese Communist Party  |
| BIA     | Burma Independence Army  |
| BIMSTEC | Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Corporation |
| BSPP    | Burma Socialist Programme Party                                  |
| CP      | Common Position  |
| Dhamma  | Buddhist Teaching  |
| EC      | European Commission  |
| ESCAP   | Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific         |
| EU      | European Union   |
| EUCFSP  | European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy                |
| FAO     | Food and Agriculture Organization                                |
| GCBA    | General Council of Burmese Association                           |
| GDP     | Gross Domestic Product   |
| IAEA    | International Atomic Energy Agency                               |
| IIE     | Institute for International Economics                            |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ILSA    | Iran-Libya Sanctions Act   |
| IMF     | International Monetary Fund  |
| INGO    | International Non-Governmental Organization  |
| Jakata  | Commentaries that tell Buddha's previous existences.   |
| KNU     | Karen National Union   |
| MFN     | Most Favored Nation  |
| NGO     | Non-Governmental Organization  |
| NLD     | National League for Democracy  |
| NZAID   | New Zealand Agency for International Development   |
| OAPEC   | Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries   |
| OAS     | Organization of America States   |
| OAU     | Organization for African Unity   |
| Pali    | Scripture for Buddhist Literature  |
| RIT     | Rangoon Institute of Technology  |
| Shinbyu | A boy gets ordination at the age of 12-15 or sometimes younger than 12. In Burma, almost every Burmese boys from Buddhist family experience shinbyu. |
| SLORC   | State Law and Order Restoration Council  |
| SPDC    | State Peace and Development Council  |
| SVS     | Savage-Victim-Savior   |
| U.S.    | United States  |
| UDHR    | Universal Declaration of Human Rights  |
| UNDP    | United Nations Development Programme   |
| UNDCP   | United Nations Drug Control Programme  |
| UNESCO  | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization   |
| UNFPA   | United Nations Population Fund   |
| UNHCR   | United Nations Human Rights Commissioner for Refugees  |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund                     |
| UNSC   | United Nations Security Council                    |
| UNSCOM | United Nations Special Commission                  |
| USAID  | United States Agency for International Development |
| USDA   | Union Solidarity and Development Association       |
| WB     | World Bank   |
| WFP    | World Food Programme                               |
| WHO    | World Health Organization                          |
| WMD    | Weapons of Mass Destruction                        |
| YMBA   | Yong Men's Buddhist Association                    |