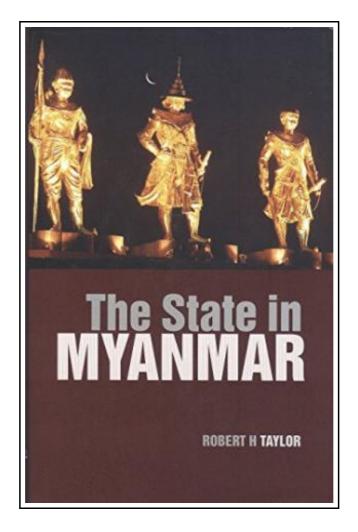
The State in Myanmar



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THE STATE IN MYANMAR



Hurst & Company, London, UK. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. Statecraft in Myanmar, previously referred to as Burma, has a lineage going back ten centuries or more. While the state today is expected to provide many other services for a vastly larger population than were its premodern predecessors, its basic functions of maintaining social order, controlling economic distribution, and ensuring the perpetuation of itself and its elite managers, remain much the same. The tools available now to do so may be different, and the challenges it faces may have grown, but the issues it addresses would be familiar to the predecessors of the modern rulers of Myanmar. Myanmar, with an estimated population of about 55 million, the 24th largest country in the world, is larger than England. With a territory as big as Texas, it is wedged between the two of the oldest civilisations and now dynamic economies on the globe, India and China. Having been influenced by both India and China for centuries, Myanmar has developed its own cultural distinctiveness in contrast with its near neighbours in South East Asia, especially Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Once governed as a British Indian province, Myanmar emerged from the colonial era and the Second World War an economically devastated but strongly nationalistic socialist state. Riven since independence by armed ethnic and ideological conflicts that lasted most of the years between 1948 and the 1990s when ceasefire agreements were reached with multiple insurgent armies, Myanmars little studied politics contain elements common to many countries. However, in few have the complexity of forces, historical and contemporary, religious and secular, foreign and indigenous, come together in one place to create so many little understood, and seemingly irresolvable, political issues. The State in Myanmar attempts to draw the complex history...

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