Misunderstood Myanmar – An Introspective Study of a Southeast Asian State in Transition.  
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Misunderstood Myanmar – An Introspective Study of a Southeast Asian State in Transition is available at leading book distributors such as www.marymartin.com and on book retailer websites such as Amazon.

Book Description
Based on the author’s interviews with key governmental and military leaders, as well as on his first-hand knowledge of the country, Misunderstood Myanmar – An Introspective Study of a Southeast Asian State in Transition, by Dr. Koh Kim Seng, is a multi-dimensional exploration of the fundamental issues underlying the world’s negative view of Myanmar. Dr. Koh clearly highlights the deep impact of British colonization on the current social, economic and political problems, as well as the effects of Myanmar’s entrenched ethnocentricity, Theravada Buddhist religion and culture on its problematic governmental structure. Also discussed are the roles of the military, as well as the conflicts that the ethnic minorities face, allowing for more clarity on the difficulties the country has in finding both internal and external resolution. This book is a kaleidoscope of Myanmar’s past and present, shedding more light on its mysteries and enables the world to see its future possibilities.

Those who have even a passing familiarity with Myanmar will know that the Myanmar Government is exceedingly wary of information sharing and guards its sovereignty and independence jealously, steadfastly refusing to let outsiders access to its decision making processes. This book reveals the opinions, beliefs and strategies of these elites in an open minded way that gives the full scope of their unique view of history.

The cloistered nature of the regime has led to a dearth of empirical information which has resisted the efforts of academic scholars, correspondents, and political analysts alike. The result has been a failure to understand Myanmar’s intransigence to protests, exhortations and impositions of the US led democracy and human rights agenda. A widespread perception has emerged that Junta elites are dimwitted, corrupt and repressive, whose decision making is dependent upon the advice of astrologers, that Myanmar is a pariah state, and that whatever development is taking place is merely cosmetic.

This book argues that to understand the vicissitudes of Myanmar’s recent history and the behavior of its generals one has to grasp the dynamic interaction between its external environment (including the disgruntled diaspora & international community) and the internal environment consisting of the generals’ ideological orientation in politics and economics still drawn from adverse colonial experiences and betrayals, as well as religion and culture. ‘Exceptionally’ because unlike other developing states Myanmar has been isolated from the international world for so long that those same internal factors have crystallized and come to take on a significance which, arguably, exceeds the role played by history, culture and religion in other parts of the world.

Without the contemporary distortion of media and political manipulation of information, Misunderstood Myanmar offers a valuable overview of the true state of affairs in Myanmar and makes an ambitious attempt to reveal the underlying motivations of those in power.

Through oral histories, personal and scholarly accounts, Dr. Seng provides a rare insider’s view of this little understood nation unavailable until now.