

Rohingya Crisis Academic Proposal

Part I Relevant Background

I. Historical Background

Anglo-Burmese Wars (1824--1884)

During 1824 ---- 1884, Great Britain invaded Myanmar multiple times, which resulted in three wars and gradually annexed Myanmar. The first period was the first Anglo-Burmese War, which took place from 1824 to 1826. In this period Great Britain opened up Myanmar. To start with, the British pushed the eastern boundary of their Indian dominions towards Myanmar. Under the pretext of frequent clashes on the border between Arakan and the British East India Company's Bengal administration, The British colonial administration in India no longer declared war on Myanmar. Therefore on February 24, 1826, Myanmar was defeated and forced to sign the humiliating Treaty of Yandabo, which soon transferred the province of Arakan to the British (Bengal in British India). After acquiring the Arakan region, Britain leased much of the farmland on 99-year leases, and a large number of cheap laborers from Bengal were imported to work in the paddy fields.

As Britain's ambition swelled, the second Anglo-Burmese War exploded in 1852. Excusing itself as protecting the interests of British businessmen in Rangoon, the British detachment hijacked Burmese ships and shelled shore defenses. At the same time, an ultimatum was sent to the Burmese Government, demanding new and greater concessions. Facing the rejection of the Burmese Government, the British began shelling the port of Madagan from the sea on April 5. On October 9, the British captured Pyu Myo but then retreated to Rangoon due to their battle plan.

In 1885, the British finally decided to annex the whole of Myanmar, which soon resulted in the third Anglo-Burmese War. On January 1, 1886, Myanmar was declared a British possession, and the British used the appeals of the British Trading Company, which had been fined by the Burmese government, as a pretext for waging war and attempting to annex the whole of Myanmar. Subsequently, British Indians began to emigrate to Myanmar in large numbers at this time, with 480,000 British Indians traveling to Myanmar in 1927 alone. This also included those who would later become the Rohingya. Such immigration inevitably created conflicts with the local population. This also leads to severe conflicts between Muslims and Buddhists in the country.

The Rise of the Jihadist Movement

After the outbreak of World War II, Japan expelled the British colonial power under the banner of the Asians. The British, on the other hand, armed Muslims to fight against Myanmar. To salvage the war, the British promised to establish a Muslim quarter in the Arakan region and to organize a "Bengal V Detachment" to fight their way back to the Arakan region.

After the war, the British colonial government withdrew its support for the Muslims and demanded that they surrender their arms and land to develop its economy and reconcile with the Burmese. However, some of the Bengali Muslims who refused to return their land turned to the jihadist movement. They founded the "Muslim Jihad Party" in 1947 and tried to join the partitioned Pakistan, but received no support. They decided to be an independent Islamic state in the Arakan region. "Rohingya" became the name of self-determination for this group of Muslims from this era. The Rakhine Muslims, who wanted to integrate into Pakistan, gradually transformed themselves into "Rohingyas". They demanded the creation of a separate Muslim province in the northern Rakhine region with equal rights as the Rakhines.

Independence of Myanmar

After the independence of Myanmar, the policy toward the Rohingyas can mainly be separated into two periods.

During the first period of parliamentary democracy under the government of the UN, the new parliament adopted the Federal Citizenship Act. This Act recognizes the equality of all citizens, which includes the Rohingya and other minorities. What's more, the government issued registration cards to all citizens, including the Rohingya. It can be said that during this period, the Rohingyas have enjoyed the same rights as other citizens and maintained a friendly relationship with the government.

However, during the period of Myanmar's military-run government, the Rohingyas faced essential challenges. In 1974, Myanmar's military-run government enacted a new constitution. Later this year, the parliament passed the Emergency Immigration Act. The law limits the rights of individuals seen as "foreigners" from Bangladesh, China, and India. Authorities begin confiscating Rohingyas' national registration cards. What's worse, In March 1978, the Socialist Program Party (SPP) came to power and called on citizens to register and report illegal immigrants. A large number of Muslims were arrested and tortured as insurgents and sympathizers, and some 200,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh.

II. Persecution and oppression

Myanmar Citizenship Act 1982

Myanmar enacted a new citizenship law in 1982 that severely restricted the conditions for international citizenship. This law had a profound impact on the identity and rights of the Rohingya people because it essentially eliminated the possibility of many Rohingyas gaining access to Myanmar. International Possibilities, as defined by the Burmese Citizenship Act 1982, full citizenship refers to a descendant of a resident who lived in Myanmar before 1823, or to a family born to a citizen parent; associate citizenship is obtained through the Federal Citizenship Act 1948 Citizenship; Naturalized citizens are those who lived in Myanmar before January 4, 1948, and applied for citizenship after 1982. The law is clear that those who already hold citizenship cannot lose it. However, many Rohingyas no longer have proof of citizenship because authorities confiscated their identity cards in the 1970s. These Rohingya citizens were told that the Myanmar government did not recognize the Rohingyas as one of Myanmar's 135 legally recognized ethnic groups and that without identity cards they had to

identify themselves as "Bengali" or immigrants from Bangladesh, denying their As Myanmar citizens, the Myanmar government officially regards them as smugglers from Bangladesh, resulting in them being legally deprived of their nationality.

Persecutions in the 1990s

In the late 1980s, unrest spread throughout Myanmar as citizens called for democratic reforms. In a bid to distract attention, Myanmar's military has launched a new campaign against the Rohingya. During Operation Clean and Beautiful Country in 1991, the Rohingya suffered systematic abuse and violence from the government, including forced labor, property confiscation, and forced relocation. These actions forced many Rohingya to flee their homes and find new refugees. Rohingya seek asylum again. Between 1991 and 1992, more than 250,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh. At this time, Myanmar's military leaders continued to deny the citizenship of the Rohingya people, emphasizing the differences between the Rohingya race and their own culture.

The Rohingya began returning from Bangladesh in 1992. The Myanmar authorities established a special border security force called NaSaKa to harass and persecute them. Forced labor, marriage restrictions, land confiscation, and physical abuse are all part of daily life in Rakhine State. The Rohingya people have suffered long-term persecution and oppression. In the following 2000s, Rohingya families were strictly controlled by the Myanmar government. The population and family status of each Rohingya family needed to be strictly recorded in a photo and submitted to the Myanmar government. This photo The photos are called "Home Listings." Missing people will be removed from the "family list" and permanently prohibited from entering Myanmar, and the Myanmar government can unconditionally detain these missing people if they enter Myanmar.

Rakhine State Violence (2012)

In June 2012, local Rakhine State citizens and extremists attacked the Rohingya after a Muslim man allegedly raped and killed a Buddhist woman. Myanmar authorities and police have been involved in deadly attacks against the Rohingya. In October 2012, a second wave of anti-Rohingya violence occurred. Armed Buddhist civilians attacked the Rohingya. They physically attacked the Rohingya and burned their homes and mosques. Security forces did nothing to stop them. This resulted in the mass displacement and permanent isolation of more than 120,000 Rohingya survivors to 24 internment camps in Myanmar. Since the violence began in 2012, the Rohingya community throughout Rakhine State has faced restrictions in almost every aspect of life. Restrictions include access to health care, education, and jobs. During violence in 2012, authorities forced 10,000 Rohingya in the Muslim district of Nazir to abandon their homes. After they left, the government bulldozed their homes.

The Rohingya Salvation Army's Counterattack (2016)

In October 2016, a group calling itself the Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked a Myanmar police outpost using household knives, rocks, and homemade explosives. The military retaliated with another widespread campaign of violence. They razed Rohingya houses and villages to the ground. Tens of thousands more Rohingya have fled to neighboring

countries for safety. Security forces once again tightened restrictions on those who remained.

Clashes and mass exodus (2017)

In August 2017, the Rohingya Salvation Army launched a large-scale attack on multiple police posts, triggering fierce retaliation from the Myanmar military. The military operation resulted in the deaths of thousands of Rohingya people. On August 27, the military murdered up to 100 Rohingya in Maung Nu. It is estimated that more than 9,000 Rohingya have been killed across Rakhine state as part of the month-long government-led massacre. During this period, soldiers burned thousands of houses, schools, shops, and mosques. They raped Rohingya women. More than 700,000 Rohingya have fled to neighboring Bangladesh. Most of these people live in overcrowded refugee camps with poor conditions.

III. Present Situation

The Refugee Crisis Beyond 2017

The Bangladeshi government and international organizations have established refugee camps to accommodate the large numbers of Rohingya fleeing. These refugee camps face many challenges, including overcrowding, poor sanitation, security issues, and inadequate education and health services. According to statistics, a total of more than one million Rohingya are currently seeking international refugee protection in Bangladesh to escape persecution and systematic discrimination; some 600,000 remain in Rakhine State, where they continue to suffer severe rights restrictions and the threat of further violence; and more than 100,000 Rohingya are detained in closed displacement camps inside Myanmar. Until now, the crisis continues, and the Rohingya continue to face a lack of citizenship, insecure levels of medical care and health, extremely high levels of food insecurity, low levels of education and literacy among children, the deterioration of the situation due to climate change and natural disasters, and threats to their lives and ethnic security. These problems need to be solved by the world, and comprehensive, durable, and inclusive solutions are highly encouraged by the UN.

International voice

In 2019, The Gambia filed a lawsuit against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, accusing it of committing genocide against the Rohingya people. This signals that the International Court of Justice will conduct a more careful legal review of Myanmar's actions. In January 2020, the court ordered Myanmar to take all necessary measures to protect the Rohingya people from further harm and prevent the destruction of evidence. Myanmar was ordered to regularly report to court on measures to protect Rohingya.

On the third anniversary of the military coup d'état in Myanmar, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres expressed grave concern about the deteriorating situation in Myanmar. He reiterated his concern regarding the military's stated intention to move towards elections amid intensifying conflict and human rights violations across the country. "The Secretary-General stands in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and their desire for an inclusive, peaceful, and just society," the statement noted, adding that he "stresses the need to ensure the protection of all communities, including the Rohingya, who

are risking dangerous journeys in increasing numbers in search of safety, basic rights and dignity.”

Part II Conference Settings

Design Concept

The origins of the Rohingya refugee crisis date back to the 19th century, with major conflicts persisting through 2017. Established refugee camps continue to face severe challenges including poor sanitation, overcrowding, security issues, and educational gaps, urgently requiring international assistance. Rohingya people remain subjected to persecution, discrimination, threats of violence, and severe restrictions on their rights, with unresolved issues of identity recognition and resettlement. This conference will guide delegates in conducting in-depth discussions across multiple dimensions: international support, citizenship recognition, repatriation and resettlement, social and religious safeguards, international public opinion and diplomatic relations, and legal frameworks. Through active consultation during the timely coordination of emergency crisis resolution, participants will weigh trade-offs and compromises to formulate executable and sustainable solutions.

This conference encourages delegates to conduct more comprehensive research on the challenges and their origins beyond the provided materials, seek sufficient information through credible channels, and actively consider how to coordinate all parties to deliver genuinely viable solutions.

Basic Information

1. Topic: Rohingya Refugee Crisis:

Topic A: Emergency Humanitarian Assistance During the 2017 Violence in Rakhine State

Topic B: Resettlement and Full Legal Recognition of the Right to Citizenship of the Rohingya Refugees

2. Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

3. Time: September, 2017

4. Representation System: Dual Representation System (MPC optional; may utilize media to publicize crises, expose discrimination and violent conflicts, control public opinion trends, etc.)

5. Rules of Procedure: Robert's Rules of Order

6. Seating Arrangement: Centered on Southeast Asian nations, while including countries with significant historical ties (20 nations + 5 MPC seats)

Specific Seat

1. Bangladesh
2. Myanmar
3. China
4. India
5. Pakistan

- 6.Malaysia
- 7.Indonesia
- 8.Japan
- 9.USA
- 10.UK
- 11.France
- 12.Saudi Arabia
- 13.Australia
- 14.Canada
- 15.Sweden
- 16.Italy
- 17.Turkey
- 18.Thailand
- 19.Norway
- 20.Brazil
- 21.Russia
- 22.Cambodia
- 23.Nepal
- 24.Vietnam
- 25.Argentina
- 26.Korea
- 27.Denmark
- 28.Qatar
- 29.Spain
- 30.Iran

MPC

Xinhua Press

New York Times

Reuters

BSS

The Myanmar Times

Potential Topic

1. Humanitarian aid and support
2. Citizenship, identity and discrimination
3. Resettlement and repatriation
4. Social security and religious security
5. International diplomacy
6. Laws and regulations

Recommendation for Reading Materials:

For brief introduction:

1. <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/rohingya-crisis>

2. <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-explained/>

For brief historical background:

3. <https://theowp.org/a-brief-historical-background-of-rohingya-muslims-in-myanmar/>
4. <https://rccchicago.org/history-of-the-rohingya/#>

For timeline:

5. <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/timeline-visual-history-rohingya-refugee-crisis>