

Country: Burma/Myanmar

Years: 1948-1955

Leader: U Nu

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL). DPI does not identify AFPFL's ideology. Though Steinberg (2013: 51f) identifies U Nu as "expressly opposed to communism", he identifies him as a leftist, writing that "U Nu equated the egalitarian elements of Buddhism with socialism" and that Burma's "early economic planning was strongly influenced by international socialist trends", and that "democratic socialism [...] was generally viewed in Burma as necessary to get the economy back under Burmese control." Gravers (2014: 302) adds that U Nu's "aim was an egalitarian welfare state." World Statesmen (2020) identifies U Nu's Party as AFPFL, and AFPFL's ideology as leftist, writing "AFPFL = Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (leftist, nationalist, pro-independence, 1944-1962.)"

Year: 1956

Head of government: U Ba Swe

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL). DPI does not identify AFPFL's ideology. Tucker (2001: 171) refers to Ba Swe as a leftist: "Ba Swe and other socialists were prominent in the committee appointed to administer them" World Statesmen (2020) identifies U Ba Swe's Party as AFPFL, and AFPFL's ideology as leftist, writing "AFPFL = Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (leftist, nationalist, pro-independence, 1944-1962.)"

Year: 1957

Head of government: U Nu

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL). DPI does not identify AFPFL's ideology. Though Steinberg (2013: 51f) identifies U Nu as "expressly opposed to communism", he identifies him as a leftist, writing that "U Nu equated the egalitarian elements of Buddhism with socialism" and that Burma's "early economic planning was strongly influenced by international socialist trends", and that "democratic socialism [...] was generally viewed in Burma as necessary to get the economy back under Burmese control." Gravers (2014: 302) adds that U Nu's

“aim was an egalitarian welfare state.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies U Nu’s Party as AFPFL, and AFPFL’s ideology as leftist, writing “AFPFL = Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (leftist, nationalist, pro-independence, 1944-1962.”

Years: 1958-1959

Head of government: Ne Win

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Aung-Thwin et al. (1992: 67) write that Ne Win “look[ed] to socialism to help solve the problems of the country”. Manzano (2017) identifies Ne Win’s ideology as left.

Years: 1960-1961

Head of government: U Nu

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Union Party (UnP). DPI does not identify UnP’s ideology. Though Steinberg (2013: 51f) identifies U Nu as “expressly opposed to communism”, he identifies him as a leftist, writing that “U Nu equated the egalitarian elements of Buddhism with socialism” and that Burma’s “early economic planning was strongly influenced by international socialist trends”, and that “democratic socialism [...] was generally viewed in Burma as necessary to get the economy back under Burmese control.” Gravers (2014: 302) adds that U Nu’s “aim was an egalitarian welfare state.”

Years: 1962-1987

Head of government: Ne Win

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Burma Socialist Programme Party (PSPB/BSPP). DPI identifies PSPB’s ideology as left. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on BSPP’s ideology. Aung-Thwin et al. (1992: 67) write that Ne Win “look[ed] to socialism to help solve the problems of the country”. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Ne Win’s party as Mil/PSPB, and PSPB’s ideology as leftist, writing “PSPB = Party of the Socialist Program of Burma ("Lanzin", socialist, 1962-88, only legal party 23 Mar 1964 - 18 Sep 1988)”. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Left” (-2.765) in 1974, 1978, 1981, and 1985.

Years: 1988-91

Leader: Saw Maung

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. The DADM project identifies Maung's party affiliation as PSPB, writing that he was appointed chairman of the party in 1988. DPI identifies PSPB's ideology as left.

Years: 1992-2010

Leader: Than Shwe

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Manzano (2017) identifies Than Shwe's ideology as left.

Years: 2011-2015

Leader: Thein Sein

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. *Political Handbook of the World* (2015: 1006) identifies party of Thein Sein as United Solidarity and Development Party (USDP): "President: Lt. Gen. (Ret.) THEIN SEIN (Union Solidarity and Development Party); elected by the Electoral College on February 4, 2011, and sworn in for a five-year term on March 30, following implementation of a new constitution that combined the offices of president and prime minister." World Statesmen (2019) identifies party of Thein Sein as USDP from 2010 onwards: "18 May 2007 - 30 Mar 2011 Thein Sein (s.a.) Mil; 2010 USDP ... USDP = Union Solidarity and Development Party (military-backed state party 2011-2016, est. Jun 2010)." In the Global Party Survey 2019, 12 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) as 4.9 with average left-right (0-10) salience as 6.2 and divided-united (0-10) party score as 6.0. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party's ideology as "Center-right" (1.643) in 2003 with "Negligible visible disagreement", 2008 with "Virtually no visible disagreement", and 2010 with "Negligible visible disagreement", and "Center-right" (1.646) in 2015 with "Negligible visible disagreement".

Years: 2016-2020

Leader: Aung San Suu Kyi

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. World Statesmen (2020) identifies San Suu Kyi's party as National League for Democracy (NLD). Perspective Monde (2020) identifies San Suu Kyi's and NLD's ideology as leftist, "moderate left." World Statesmen (2020)

corroborates, writing “NLD = National League for Democracy (democratic-socialist, center-left, originally won 27 May 1990 election, banned 6 May 2010 - 13 Dec 2011, est. 27 Sep 1988).” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 12 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of National League for Democracy (NLD) as 4.6. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.478) in 2015. DPI does not identify NLD’s ideology.

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