

# Burma - the politics of constructive engagement

**Royal Institute of International Affairs - The Rhetoric and Reality of Human Rights : Burma and the Politics of Constructive Engagement and Non**

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## The ‘ASEAN Way’ The Structural Underpinnings of Constructive Engagement

Quiet diplomacy allows ASEAN leaders to communicate without bringing the discussions into the public view. Given the emergence of international NGOs and pressure groups, who use modern communications to place their concerns on the international agenda and stimulate global networks of support to put a spotlight on the issue, this is an important referent and element in the policy context. By throwing China's weight behind the SPDC, Beijing has complicated the strategic calculations of those of Burma's neighbors that are concerned about the direction the country is moving in, thus enabling the junta to pursue a classic divide-and-conquer approach.

## The “ASEAN Way”: The Structural Underpinnings of Constructive Engagement

ASEAN has long argued constructive engagement is rational, accounting for existing realities and inducing political change in a controlled, manageable fashion. You may change your billing preferences at any time in the Customer Center or call. His speech conspicuously omitted any mention of Burma, but there is no question that Japan's Burma policy has been shifting significantly.

## The “ASEAN Way”: The Structural Underpinnings of Constructive Engagement

Not too much hope should be placed in the newly approved of the Asean charter. As soon as Beijing realized that being hands-off did not prevent Pyongyang from testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles over its objections -- thus damaging China's reputation and threatening its security -- it agreed to UN Security Council sanctions to try to bring Pyongyang under control. Asean could play a key role in persuading Sloc to undertake concrete changes, while offering economic and political support along the way.

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Burma's neighbors are struggling to respond to the spillover effects of worsening living conditions in the country. Constructive Engagement and its Critics.

More recently, however, the ten-member organization has come to recognize that Burma is not only a stain on its international reputation but also a drain on its diplomatic resources and a threat to peace and stability in Asia.

### **'Constructive Engagement' Can Work in Burma**

Another possible source of change is growing pressure from ASEAN nations, which have been suspicious of China's dealings with Burma over the last 15 years. As the end of the Cold War diminished the ideological divide in the region, it produced the opportunity to include Burma within ASEAN.

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