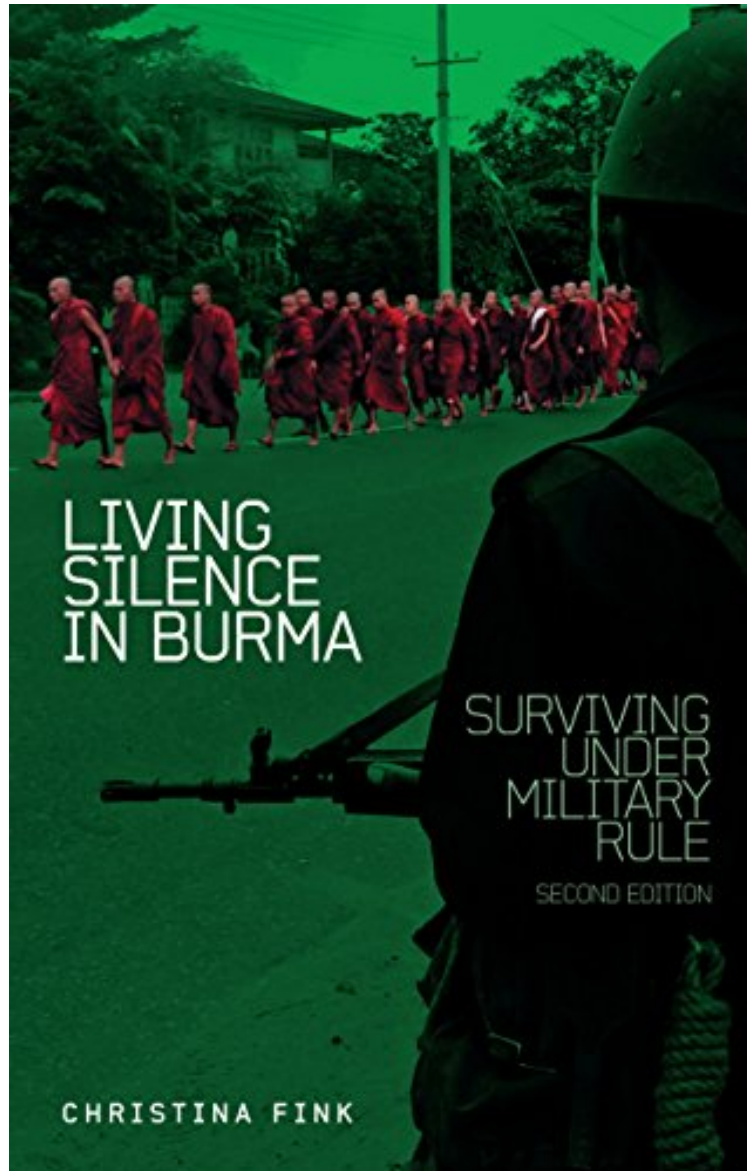


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## Living Silence in Burma: Surviving under Military Rule

*Christina Fink*

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**Christina Fink : Living Silence in Burma: Surviving under Military Rule** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living Silence in Burma: Surviving under Military Rule:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly and balanced book on BurmaBy Anna PowersThis is the best book I've read on Burma in a long time and I've read a few. I've read a lot about ancient history but not too much about how life is under military rule. Being an outsider Christina Fink was able to have a more balanced view of what is happening. I have a much better understanding of what life is like there.I had lived there in the early seventies but

had very little interaction with Burmans. I wondered why then and I've wondered why since. Fink explained it so I understood. I appreciated the Author's note on Burmese prefixes and Acronyms. I would have been lost without it. Lastly, the notes, bibliography and index were also helpful. It's good to find a scholarly text that makes clear and understandable reading. This is a good book, well worth reading.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A day in the life of the average Burmese

By Arnold A truly unique book in the field of Burma Studies. There has been a lot written about the Burmese government (The State in Myanmar), human rights and Aung San Suu Kyi (Perfect Hostage: A Life of Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's Prisoner of Conscience), and ethnic minorities (Burma: Curse of Independence), but surprisingly little scholarly work about the lives of the average Burmese citizen (Emma Larkin's excellent Finding George Orwell in Burma is more of a journalist's account). Christina Fink's Living Silence in Burma: Surviving under Military Rule, Second Edition fills this gap. Even after 8 years, it remains the premier work on everyday life in the majority of the country. The book first covers the country's history, particularly the socialist era (which many modern books tend to glance over). Fink then dedicates chapters to aspects of modern life, such as religion, schools, families, and the military. The book shows how the government has infiltrated almost every aspect of society. Teachers have to struggle between educating students and spying on them for the military. Monks worry that up to a tenth of all fellow monks may work for the military. During a referendum in 1973 to approve a new constitution, soldiers stood watch as voters put their votes in a "yes" or "no" box - the latter was discouraged. Overall, this book isn't like a human rights report, describing a few major outrages, but rather is more subtle. It details the many minor outrages that build up and eventually overwhelm daily life in the country. Unfortunately, the pessimism described in the book matches my observations while I've been in the country. Definitely worth buying if you're interested in Burma at all. Despite being an academic work, this is an eminently readable account. Note: This edition has been updated with an additional chapter to cover developments since 2001.

Eight years after the first edition of this insightful and highly regarded book, Burma remains one of the most troubled nations in Southeast Asia. While other countries have democratized and prospered, Burma is governed by a repressive military dictatorship and is the second largest producer of heroin in the world. In this exceptionally readable yet scholarly account of Burma today, Christina Fink gives a moving and insightful picture of what life under military rule is like. Through the extensive interviews conducted inside and outside the country, we begin to understand Burma's political and domestic situation and a comprehensive understanding of why military rule has lasted so long. This significantly revised new edition includes material taking the reader up to present day action and accounts, including the impacts of the dramatic 2007 monks' demonstrations, which were coordinated with former student activists and members of Aung San Suu Kyi's party. The book explores the regime's continued attempts to weaken and divide the democratic movement and the ethnic nationalist organizations and explains how the democratic movement and ethnic groups have sought to achieve their goals; in part, by working more closely together.

"Living Silence is particularly valuable for its study of the psychological effects of military rule on the people of Burma. The real struggle in Burma is the struggle between the desire to opt for the easy option of submitting to the demands of the powers that be and the commitment that leads to the hard road of resisting the threats and blandishments of a ruthless regime. By exploring the impact of military rule on the lives of ordinary people against a broad historical and social backdrop, Christina Fink makes an important contribution towards an understanding of the root causes of the problems and choices that the people of Burma are facing today." -- Aung San Suu Kyi