

# CBGA INFOGRAPHICS # 9

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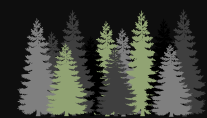
## RAKHINE STATE

A PLACE OF GREAT GEOSTRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR GREAT POWERS

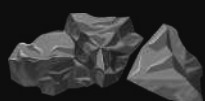
### BACKGROUND



#### GEOECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF MYANMAR



Forests



Minerals



Freshwater



Natural Gas



Marine Resources



Gateway between South and Southeast Asia



Growing population and economy



#### PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN RAKHINE

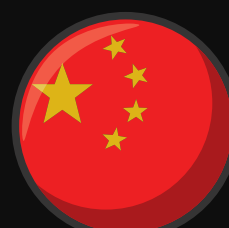
The Rohingya, an ethnic minority group in Myanmar, compelled to leave their homeland to seek refuge in bordering country, Bangladesh. Currently 1.2 million Rohingyas are living in Bangladesh

**1978:** Government launched "The Operation Nagmin" (or Dragon King) taking actions against the citizens and foreigners, sensing the belief of many "Bangalis" from Bangladesh were staying illegally in the country starting from the Kachin state and Akyab district. Following that military-led clearance operation displaced 200,000 Muslim Rohingyas to Bangladesh seeking shelter to 11 camps

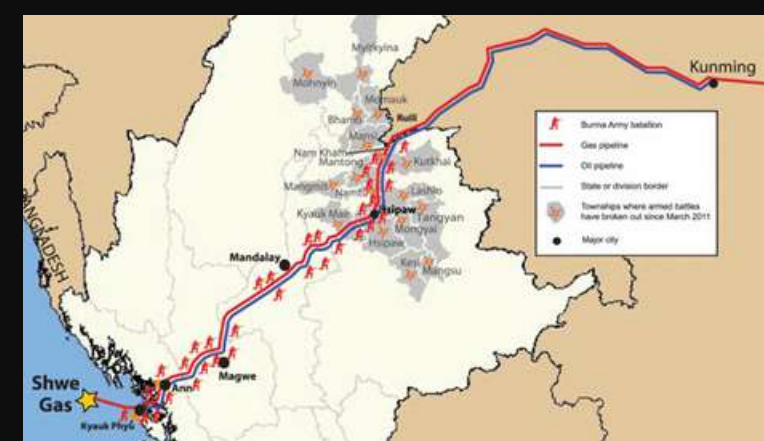
**1991:** Bangladesh faced the exodus of Rohingya following the discriminatory forms of 1982 Citizenship Act of Myanmar when about 250,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh border. Hoping to back their rights to prove as citizens, the Rohingyas took part in pro-democracy movement but unfortunately again faced extreme repression by the government resulting to cross Naf River to seek refuge in the Teknaf, Ramu, Ukhiya and Cox's Bazar area

**2016-2019:** In 2016, the incident of killing nine police officers by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in the Rakhine state of Myanmar stripped the military crackdown and forced 87,000 Rohingyas to Bangladesh. However, a coordinated series attack by ARSA killing 12 security officers and targeting at least 20 outposts and army bases triggered burning down villages of the Muslim Rohingyas. Therefore, the "Clearance Operation" was undertaken by the Burmese Security Force; shattered down the villages, separation of families and killing members of the families, women and girls were gang-raped, traumatized, resulting to massive influx to Bangladesh border areas from Rakhine state since 25 August 2017. Since August 2017 to March 2019 the stateless Rohingyas mostly took shelter in 34 extremely congested camps, the extended site of Kutupalong- Balukhali, under the Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas.

### ROLE OF BIG POWERS



CHINA



#### China-Myanmar Relations:

Bordering state with great economic and political relation

#### Chinese Approach to the Crisis:

Two-way Plan: Economic development and then diplomatic solution.

#### Interest in Rakhine:

Kyaukphyu Deep Sea Port, Shwe Gas Pipeline

#### Use:

Establish a connection between Kyaukphyu deep seaports with Kunming. Considering the geostrategic location of Kyaukphyu deep-sea port, not far from Sittwe port, China is also building a Special Economic Zone which includes natural gas and oil pipelines with a railway which establishing a new way for Chinese trade

#### Advantage:

Avoid the narrow Malacca Strait and limiting the great distance while transiting in Singapore

#### Investment:

\$7.3bn - Kyaukphyu deep-sea port; \$3.2bn - Industrial park



INDIA



#### India-Myanmar Relations:

Bordering state with growing economic and political relation due to geopolitical interest

#### Indian Approach to the Crisis:

Reluctance to create pressure on Myanmar concerning it might push Myanmar more towards China

#### Interest in Rakhine:

Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

#### Use:

Connectivity to link its landlocked northeastern region with the Bay of Bengal through Rakhine State and also considered their national interest issues like Indian companies holding stakes in Shwe Gas field off the coast of Rakhine State planning to build cross-border pipelines

#### Advantage:

Reduce the need to transport goods and people through the narrow Siliguri corridor, also known as Chicken's Neck

#### Investment:

\$484 mn





## UNITED STATES

### United States-Myanmar Relations:

Tensions exist as Myanmar is a close ally of China but the US trying to develop relations due to Myanmar as a part of its Indo-Pacific Strategy

### US Approach to the Crisis:

After the recent exodus of Rohingyas, the USA imposed sanctions on four Myanmar military and police commanders and two army units, accusing them of “ethnic cleansing” against Rohingya Muslims and widespread human rights abuses. But the USA did not target the highest levels of Myanmar's military and also refrained from calling the anti-Rohingya campaign as crimes against humanity or genocide

### Interest in Myanmar:

Development Projects

### Use:

Establish a connection by creating Industrial Parks which will allow further trade with the United States and the promotion of Capitalism

### Advantage:

Better Effort to reduce influence on Myanmar and a better tie with a Indo-Pacific nation

### Investment:

\$280 mn - support inclusive private sector-led growth through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; \$400 mn - 20 Myanmar Companies (13th largest investor nation in Myanmar)



## JAPAN

### Japan-Myanmar Relations:

Average political and economic ties with a asian nation with great geopolitical interest

### Japanese Approach to the Crisis:

Suggested to set an independent investigative panel and resume the UN relief operations; Wants to play a major role as a mediator in the repatriation process; Providing active monitoring by Japan to Myanmar in the Rakhine state for the repatriation of Rohingya Muslims.

### Interest in Rakhine:

Development Projects

### Use:

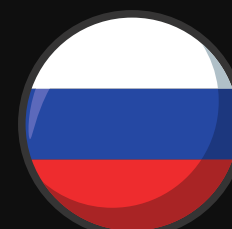
Rebuilding the living conditions, electricity generators, water purifiers, fuel, and plastic containers in the Rakhine State

### Advantage:

Assert its greater position as a regional leader

### Investment:

\$3 mn - infrastructure development in Rakhine



## RUSSIA

### Russia-Myanmar Relations:

Excellent ties with the Myanmar, especially military junta being a top supplier of

### Russian Approach to the Crisis:

Strongly condemning the Rohingya militant groups and their armed raid aimed at undermining the efforts of Myanmar's authorities and the international community to stabilise the situation in Rakhine State

### Interest in Myanmar:

Military and military-technical cooperation

### Use:

Myanmar is a long-term buyer of Russian weapon systems. Its share is 16 per cents of all weapons Myanmar has purchased between 2014-2019

### Advantage:

Russia is the second-biggest seller of arms to Myanmar after China

### Earnings:

Over \$1.5 bn for weapon supplies between 1999 and 2018

## ANALYSIS

In explaining the Rohingya crisis, it is clearly evident how the ethnic conflict and the aggressive position of Myanmar Government against the Rohingyas humanity caused the ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. If the events are scrutinized, it will be found that lack of external pressure on Myanmar and absence of foreign attention to the crimes against the Rohingyas have also significantly contributed to intensifying the aggression against the Rohingya people

But it is much clear that the "appeasement" of foreign powers to Myanmar, not even considering the humanitarian ground, even after their aggressive actions against the Rohingyas also played a vital role in increasing the crimes against humanity in the Rakhine State of Myanmar.

## CHALLENGES IN SOLVING THE ROHINGYA CRISIS



A conflict of interest among the great powers over their relations with Myanmar



Huge investment of India and China, especially in the Rakhine State causing a lack of support



Reluctant attitude of great powers and their appeasement to Myanmar due to the importance of Rakhine state and strategic relations of Myanmar



No binding resolutions from the UN Security Council as Russia and China having close ties with Myanmar authority



UNHCR not being able to provide concrete solutions to the crisis