

Crimson tide leads Burma's protests

Burma's military junta is facing the most sustained challenge to its rule in nearly two decades as 100,000 protesters – led by deeply-respected Buddhist monks – call for a hand-over of power to a civilian government



Top right: Aung San Suu Kyi. Below: General Than Shwe



■ **1988:** At least 3,000 people are killed in anti-government riots

■ **1989:** Burma's ruling military junta, **State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc)** declares martial law. Country renamed **Myanmar**

■ **May 1990:** Opposition leader **Aung San Suu Kyi's** National League for Democracy wins 392 of 485 seats in election. Result ignored by Slorc – Suu Kyi placed under house arrest

■ **1992:** General **Than Shwe** takes power, sparking hopes of return to civilian government and democracy

■ **1995:** Suu Kyi released from house arrest after six years

■ **1997:** Burma admitted to **Asean** (Association of South East Asian Nations); Slorc renamed **State Peace and Development Council (SPDC)**

■ **2003:** Suu Kyi detained under house arrest again

■ **2006:** Military junta relocates national capital to **Nay Pyi Taw**. Foreign access is strictly forbidden

■ **Jan 2007:** China and Russia veto draft UN resolution calling on Burma to stop persecuting opposition groups

■ **May:** Suu Kyi's house arrest extended for further year



■ **Aug:** Junta doubles fuel prices, sparking protests. Crackdown fails to stop demonstrations

■ **Sep:** Troops sent in to crush demonstrations in Yangon