

Myanmar army chief takes full power

Min Aung Hlaing, commander-in-chief of the second-largest army in South East Asia, was expected to retire later this year until he staged a coup against Myanmar's democratically elected government



■ **1956:** **Min Aung Hlaing** born in Dawei, formerly Tavoy. Studies law at Yangon University from 1972-74

■ **1974:** Enters **Defence Services Academy** – on third attempt

■ **2008:** Placed in charge of operations on eastern border

■ **2009:** Campaign against armed rebels drives 37,000 ethnic minority refugees from Shan state and Kokang region into China

■ **2010:** Becomes joint chief of staff despite allegations of murder, rape and arson against his troops

■ **2011:** Succeeds long-time leader **Than Shwe** as commander-in-chief as transition to democracy begins

■ **2016:** **Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD)** wins power in election. Min Aung Hlaing resists subsequent attempts by NLD to amend constitution to limit military power

■ **2017:** Army crackdown in Rakhine state drives more than 730,000 Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh – UN investigators say offensive included mass killings, gang rapes and arson and was executed with “genocidal intent”

■ **2019:** U.S. imposes sanctions on Min Aung Hlaing and three other military leaders

■ **Nov 2020:** NLD wins landslide election victory but military-backed **Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)** disputes results

■ **Jan 27:** Min Aung Hlaing warns that “the constitution shall be abolished, if not followed”

■ **Feb 1:** Military detains State Counsellor **Aung San Suu Kyi**, President **Win Myint** and other NLD leaders, and declares one-year state of emergency