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Glossary of Myanmar Terms

Foreword by Dr Thant Myint-U

Cetena

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Foreward

by Dr Thant Myint-U

Thura U Shwe Mann is a major figure in history of early 21st century Myanmar. The publication of this book should therefore be welcomed, not only by those interested in Myanmar's recent developments, but by anyone wanting to better understand transitions from military dictatorship.

Thura U Shwe Mann has been at the centre of Myanmar government and political life now for nearly two decades, first as a senior member of the army general staff, then as Speaker in the country's nascent parliament. As a former general who became a champion of democratic reform, his career reflects Myanmar's amazing and sometimes perplexing political journey these past years, its challenges, and potential.

This book is not only about Thura U Shwe Mann, but also, as the title suggests, about his groundbreaking partnership with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The partnership, indeed friendship, between the erstwhile chairman of the ruling United Solidarity and Development Party and the leader of the National League for Democracy, has shaped Myanmar's

political rapprochement and the very nature of the government following the historic 2015 elections. Understanding this relationship is a key to understanding contemporary Myanmar politics.

The political world Thura U Shwe Mann paints is one of rapid change, dangers and opportunities, new beginnings, and the overarching importance of individual character.

Though Myanmar today faces daunting challenges, one should not forget the historic compromises that have made the peaceful first steps away from military dictatorship possible. This book will help illuminate a proper appreciation of those first steps.

Thant Myint-U

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