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Myanmar

Sky Bergman

California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo, sbergman@calpoly.edu

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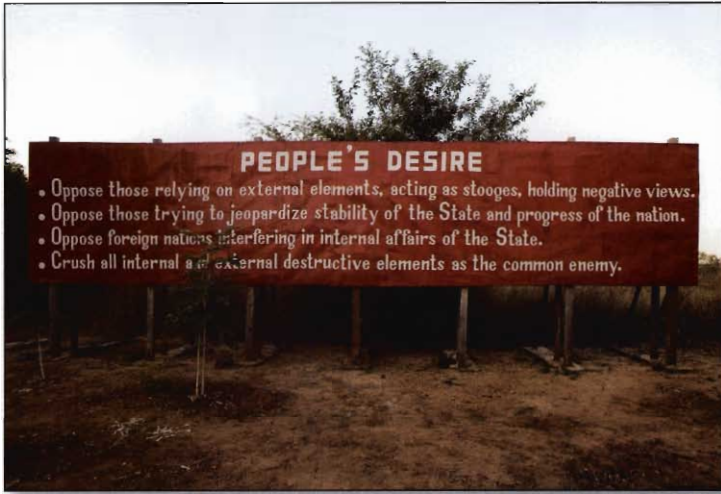
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MYANMAR

Photo Essay

Sky Bergman



Sign just outside the Bagan Airport, Bagan, Myanmar (Burma)

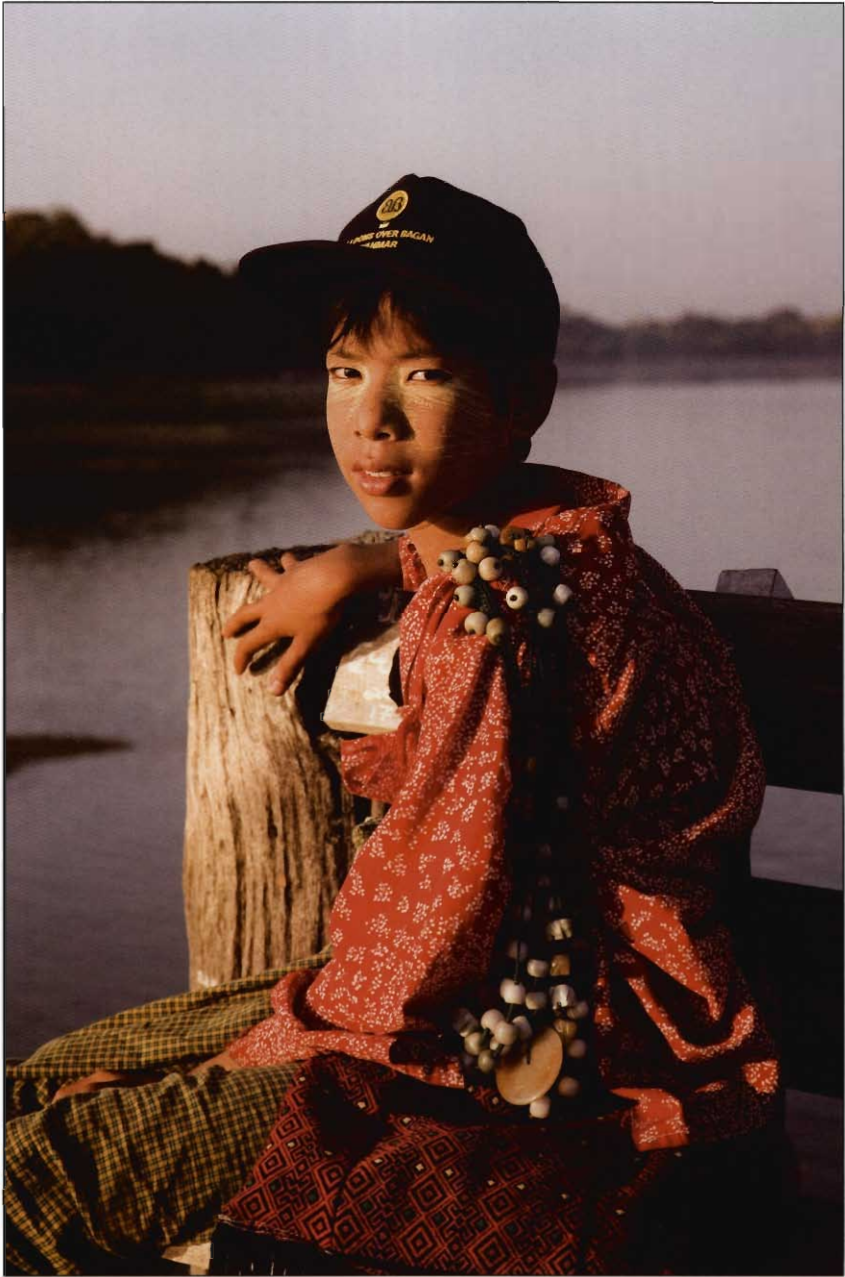
It is said that people make a place. For example, when people think of Myanmar, or Burma, they often think first of Aung San Suu Kyi, winner in 1991 of the Nobel Prize for Peace, who has been under house arrest on and off since July 1989.

There is the presence of the dictatorship, but most of the people that I met are just trying to survive. They live in villages that seem to harken back to our idea of life a century ago, dirt floors, thatched roofs, no electricity except in the big cities. They walk to the local watering hole with cans for their daily water. Despite the conditions, people are gracious and hospitable to strangers. When I walked down the road in a village near Bagan I was invited by two elderly women to share some of the peanuts they were roasting. Another family invited me to share their meager meal with them.

I have found that we tend to make judgments about a group of people from a particular country based on what that government might be doing or saying rather than based on the individual people. As a photographer, I am given the rare opportunity to meet and interact with people and see them as individuals. I found the people in Myanmar to be some of the warmest people that I have met in my many travels despite the many years of oppression that they have had to endure.



Monks receiving their daily meal at Maha Ganayon Kyaung Monastery, Amarapura Near Mandalay, Myanmar (Burma)



Child selling necklaces on U Bein's Bridge (world's longest teak bridge) at sunset, Taungthanman Lake, Amarapura near Mandalay, Myanmar (Burma)



Young monk at the Shwedagon Paya, Yangon, Myanmar (Burma)



Children at a Festival in Bagan, Myanmar (Burma)

Bergman: Myanmar



School at the Bagaya Wooden Monastery, Inwa near Mandalay, Myanmar (Burma)



Mother and Daughter getting water for the day, Minn Nan Tu Village, Bagan, Myanmar (Burma)



Harvest along the way to Inle Lake, Myanmar (Burma)



Pwa Saw Village, Bagan, Myanmar (Burma)



On the way to the floating market, Inle Lake, Myanmar (Burma)



Kalaw Market, Kalaw, Myanmar (Burma)



Young nuns at the top of Taung Kalat, Myanmar (Burma)



Buses on the streets of Yangon, Myanmar (Burma)