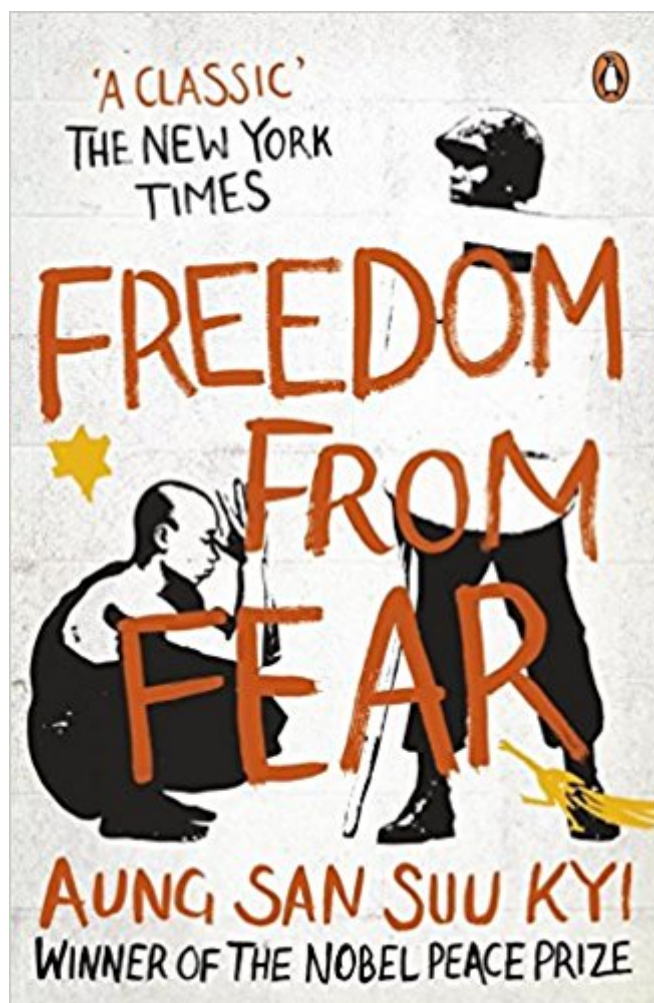


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# Freedom From Fear: And Other Writings



## Synopsis

Freedom from Fear - collected writings from the Nobel Peace prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi Aung San Suu Kyi's collected writings - edited by her late husband, whom the ruling military junta prevented from visiting Burma as he was dying of cancer - reflects her greatest hopes and fears for her fellow Burmese people, and her concern about the need for international co-operation in the continuing fight for Burma's freedom. Bringing together her most powerful speeches, letters and interviews, this remarkable collection gives a voice to Burma's 'woman of destiny', whose fate remains in the hands of her enemies. Recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, and leader of Burma's National League for Democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi is one of the world's greatest living defenders of freedom and democracy, and an inspiration to millions worldwide. This book sits alongside Nelson Mandela's memoir Long Walk to Freedom. 'This book is bound to become a classic for a new generation of Asians who value democracy even more highly than Westerners do, simply because they are deprived of the basic freedoms that Westerners take for granted' The New York Times 'Aung San Suu Kyi's extraordinary achievement has been to confront the regime peacefully, reasonably and persuasively... [in] one of the most laudable continuing acts of political courage' Financial Times 'Such is the depth of passion and learning that she brings to her writings about national identity and its links with culture and language that she has attracted the admiration of intellectuals around the world' Sunday Times Aung San Suu Kyi is the leader of Burma's National League for Democracy. She was placed under house arrest in Rangoon in 1989, where she remained for almost 15 of the 21 years until her release in 2010, becoming one of the world's most prominent political prisoners. She is also the author of Letters from Burma.

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## Customer Reviews

Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for courageous leadership of the Burmese people in their battle against authoritarian rule. The forthright condemnation of the regime that resulted in the activist's house arrest is clearly expressed in the essays in this volume. Part one--which describes Burma's political, intellectual and literary history--includes a moving yet unsentimental biography of the author's father, Aung San. Clearly a role model, though he was assassinated when she was only two, Aung San was a seminal figure in the Burmese struggle for independence in the 1940s. Part two contains a series of essays on democracy and human rights. Of particular interest is Aung San Suu Kyi's brief statement in response to a nomination for political office. Though under house arrest at the time, she accepted "out of respect for the decision taken by my party in accordance with democratic practices." Part three presents tributes to Aung San Suu Kyi by friends and scholars. Ann Pasternak Slater candidly recalls the human rights activist as a student at Oxford becoming initiated into Western ways. A visiting professor at Harvard, Aris is the author's husband. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nobel Peace Prize winner for 1991, Aung San Suu Kyi is currently under house arrest in Myanmar (Burma) and serves as the nation's conscience against an oppressive military regime. Compiled by her husband, Michael Aris, with a foreword by Vaclav Havel, this volume includes a wide selection of Aung San's writings--essays, letters, speeches, and interviews--as well as four tributary articles. However, more stress should have been given to her writings since 1988 when she entered political life. Her best essay, "My Father," is a biographical portrait of the father of modern Burma. (This has been separately published as *Aung San of Burma* by Kiscadale Publications and will be distributed in the United States by Seven Hills in February 1992.) Although her writings are repetitive and often more about her father than herself, people will want to read about the plight of a heroic figure trapped by a corrupt Third World regime.- Donald Clay Johnson, Univ. of Minnesota Lib., Minneapolis Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An excellent book that includes some history of the conflict in Burma and highlights the writing and

perspectives of a remarkable human being. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the power of non-violence and resistance.

Before reading this book I was quite curious to read what Daw Suu herself wrote, since by that time I have already read numerous articles and few books about her and the struggle for democracy in Burma. "Freedom from Fear" contains many of her writings, although there are other contributors as well, and is actually a bunch of articles edited by Daw Suu's late husband Dr. Michel Aris. Needless to say that she couldn't ask for more sensitive editor to take care of her splendid words and ideas. Rather than telling you about some parts of the book I find less interesting, I will say that reading in English the speech Daw Suu delivered at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Rangoon on 26 August 1988, worth everything. Including the sentence that may be the core theme defining the struggle she leads since 1988 "I could not as my father's daughter remain indifferent to all that was going on. This national crisis could in fact be called the second struggle for national independence". A struggle yet to be concluded. Those of you who are interested mostly in getting Daw Suu's words and ideas directly, almost "first hand", may consider "letters from Burma" by ASSK or "voice of hope" by ASSK and Alan Clements.

The work has some fine contributions explaining and analyzing the life and commitment of Aung San Suu Kyi to restore democracy to Burma. Some of her own words, reflections on Buddhist thought and politics appear here, and they constitute a very meaningful third of the book. The other two-thirds (approximately) are the speeches or writings of her friends or family, such as Michael Aris (her late husband) and Ma Than E, a close friend. Readers will develop a comprehensive sense of her life story, the life of her father Aung San, and also of her political and religious commitments. The only fault I can find with this work is that it can be a bit repetitive. Chapter 4 could have been excluded, as it essentially reviewed the materials of the previous chapters. Nonetheless readers will be richly rewarded in learning not only about Aung San Suu Kyi, but about her culture, her people, and the difficult struggles they face.

I found the writing of Aung San Suu Kyi to be fascinating insight into her country, but they also illuminate much of what links us together as human beings - the need to be free from fear. She has done much for her country and much for the world in writing about Burma/Myanmar's history and her and other democracy advocates' struggles.

Great read before my trip to Burma!

Hard read due to all the pain, but inspiring.

Great book!!!

This will help me understand the woman and her thoughts about politics and the country itself.

Maybe I will visit one day.

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