Marco Bünte is Professor of Political Science at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg. His research focusses on comparative democratisation, civil-military relations, social movements and Asian politics. He has published extensively on Southeast Asian politics (particularly on Myanmar and Indonesia). His work appeared in Armed Forces & Society, Contemporary Politics, Journal of Contemporary Asia, amongst others. He is also the co-editor of Politics and Constitutions in Southeast Asia (Routledge 2017, with B. Dressel) and The Crisis of Democratic Governance in Southeast Asia (2011, with Aurel Croissant).

Abstract
After the first general elections 2015, hopes were high both inside and outside the country that Myanmar could further reform the quasi-military regime and embark on a genuine democratisation. Five years later, the overall picture looks pretty bleak. The past five years were marked not only by a lack of further deep-going political reforms and a lacklustre peace process but also by a brutal ethnic-cleansing campaign by the Burmese army against Muslim Rohingya in Rakhine state as well as a general deterioration of political freedoms and civil rights. It seems that Myanmar follows the worldwide trend towards autocratization.

From Democratization to Autocratization?
Trends and Patterns in Myanmar