

Contents

Preface: The “Buddhist Country” Myth	xi
Acknowledgments	xix
A Note on Language and Usage	xxv
Cast of Characters	xxvii
Introduction: State and Religion Entanglement: Controlling, Protecting, and Corrupting Religion	1
1 Nats, Kings, and Government Monks: The Foundations of the Myanmar Religious Economy 1057–1824	27
2 The Golden Shore: An Experiment in Religious Freedom 1824–1948	47
3 To Be Burmese Is to Be Buddhist: Religious Nationalism in the Myanmar Religious Economy 1930–1948	71
4 Saturday’s Son: The Religious Economy under a Devout Religious Leader 1947–1962	89
5 Going to Moscow: The Religious Economy under a Brutal Dictator 1962–1988	109
6 Buddhism, Nat Spirit Wives, and Christian Clerics: Religious Convictions in the Myanmar Religious Economy 1974–2022	131

7	The Ashokan Road: The Consequences of a Highly Regulated Religious Economy for the State and Majority Religion	159
8	A Different Ashokan Road: The Consequences for Minority Religions, Religious Competition, and Truth	185
	Glossary	209
	Bibliography	213
	Index	237
	About the Author	242