

Burma, a strategically critical land mass in South East Asia, stands at a crossroads. Abandoned by Great Britain in its rushed decolonisation programme during the aftermath of World War II, the country's many ethnic groups were left to fight it out amongst themselves for a share of the power.

In 1962, General Ne Win, Chief of Staff of the army, led a military coup that signalled the end of democracy in Burma. Since then, the Karen people and other minority groups have been fighting for their independence.

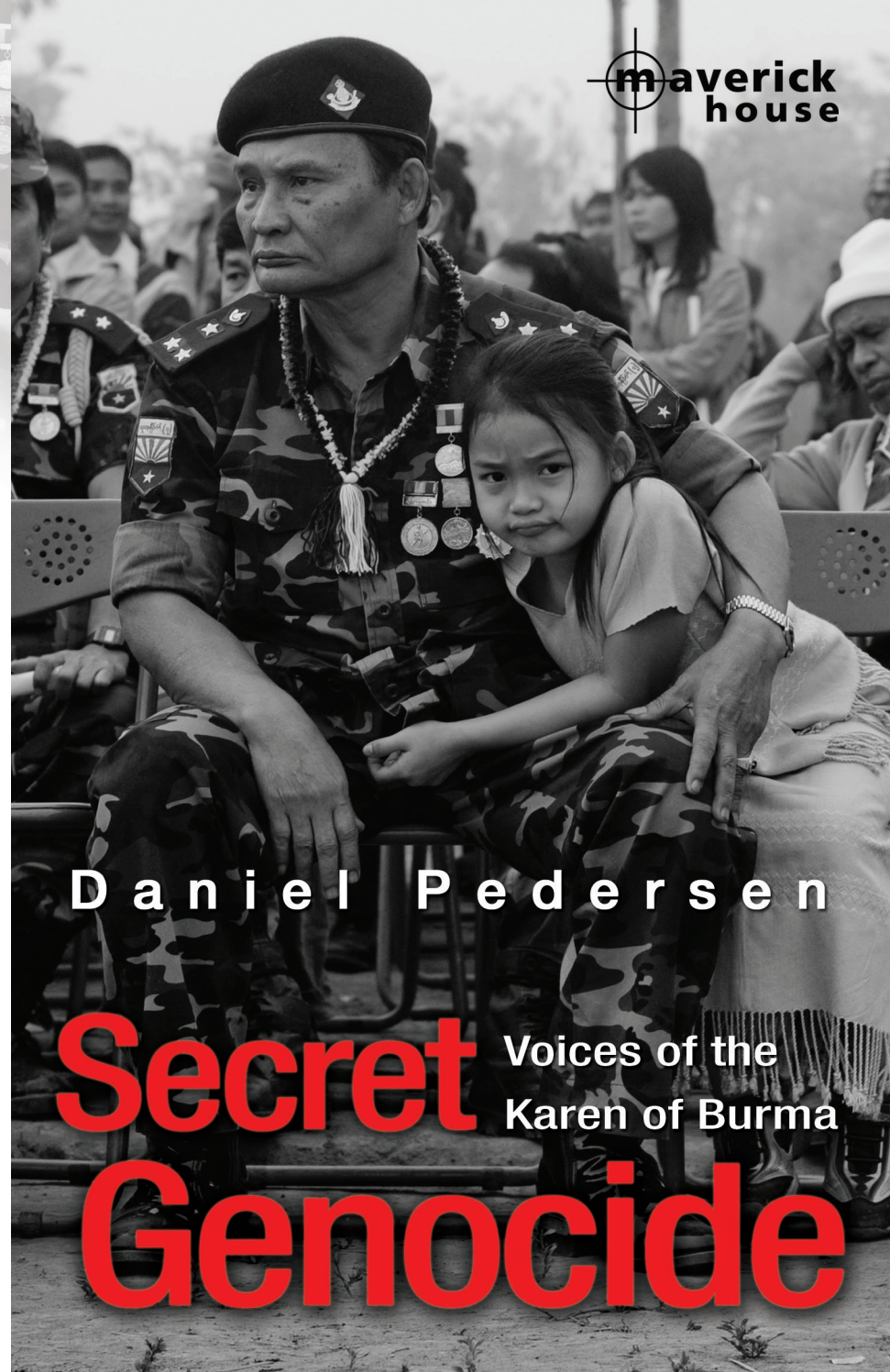
In *Secret Genocide*, journalist and author Daniel Pedersen explores the reasons men resort to violence to consolidate personal fiefdoms at the expense of their own people. He delves deep into the jungles of Burma, travelling into the heart of Karen State to interview some of the most influential members of the Karen National Union and Karen National Liberation Army as well as aid workers, NGOs and everyday people living on the ground. In their own words, the people behind the world's longest running conflict explain their motivations and the reasons they will not stop fighting until they see justice done.

Pedersen also asks the reader to consider the legal definition of genocide, a term conceived by global leaders as they recoiled from the horrors of World War II, and to decide if what is happening in Burma right now constitutes genocide. If so, he asks, what are we to do about it?

Secret Genocide

Voices of the
Karen of Burma

Daniel
Pedersen



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