

Inside the origins of a conspiracy theory about Myanmar and China | First Draft

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Since Myanmar's democratically elected government was ousted February 1, social media has been inundated with conspiracy theories and rumors.

In this case study, we explore a recent theory that emerged when people in Myanmar noticed Chinese characters appearing on their mobile devices.

Myanmar's military junta announced on February 11 plans to introduce sweeping new cybersecurity laws that would give authorities what Reuters called "unprecedented censorship powers," less than a fortnight after it overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's government. The proposed laws led to speculation online and among protesters that Chinese IT equipment and technicians were being flown in to help implement an internet firewall, similar to the Great Firewall of China.

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Source: [Inside the origins of a conspiracy theory about Myanmar and China](#)