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Sommario/riassunto	The United Wa State Army, a force of some twenty-thousand fighters, is the largest of Burma's ethnic armed organizations. It is also the best equipped, boasting modern and sophisticated Chinese weaponry, and operates a formidable drug empire in the Golden Triangle region. This report examines the history of the Wa people, the United Wa State Army's long-standing political and military ties to China, and the Wa's role in Burma's fragile peace process.