

THAI-STYLE DEMOCRACY: PROBLEMS IN DEVELOPING DEMOCRACY IN THAILAND

Sanya Kenaphoom¹, Jirayu Supsin², Wanchai Suktam² and Siriphat Lapchit²

¹Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University, THAILAND

²Surindra Rajabhat University, THAILAND

zumsa_17@hotmail.com (Corresponding author)

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ABSTRACT

Understanding "Thai-style democracy" is essential to comprehending Thailand's ongoing political unrest and the challenges facing the country's attempts to establish a strong democratic system. The development of inclusive and stable democratic institutions is still hampered by the interaction of authoritarian and democratic forces as well as military power. Thai-style democracy: Problems in developing democracy in Thailand were (1) Military Influence in Politics, (2) Judicialization of Politics, (3) Weak Political Parties, (4) Patronage System and Corruption, (5) Role of Civil Society and Popular Movements, (6) Frequent Constitutional Changes, (7) Lack of Civic Education, (8) Cultural Factors, and (9) Impersonating the monarchy to destroy political opponents. In conclusion, "Thai-style democracy" describes a political system in which the monarchy is used to stifle opposition and civic education is lacking, cultural barriers exist, military influence predominates, weak political parties, patronage and corruption, divisive civil society, and frequent constitutional changes occur. All of these obstacles work together to keep Thailand from becoming a stable, authentic democracy.

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