

*The coup d'etat in Thailand, 23 February, Just another coup? (Occasional paper / Indian Ocean Centre for Peace Studies) [David Murray] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Further Reading February Coup In the late s, the Thai political party system continued to evolve, albeit spasmodically. It was at a delicate stage of transition from its past status as an adjunct to the bureaucratic establishment to a more substantial role as a channel for popular representation and a provider of top political executives. The concept of party politics dated back to the early s, but its impact was generally insignificant, having been overshadowed by the military-bureaucratic elite. The struggle for power was nearly always settled by coup, and the pluralistic demands of the society were accommodated through either bureaucratic channels or patron-client connections. The perception that political parties and politicians were unworthy of trust was widespread in . However, a coup was ruled out by Chaovalit, the new army commander in chief, even though he publicly castigated politicians as venal and hypocritical. In February he asserted that political parties, the Constitution, and elections alone would not make for a genuine democracy in Thailand, where, he argued, the party system and elections were controlled by a wealthy few who used the trappings of democracy for their own benefit. Appearing before a parliamentary committee in April , Chaovalit maintained that to build a real Thai-style democracy with the king as head of state, the ever-widening income disparity must be narrowed first and that at the same time political parties and all government entities including the military "must join hands and walk ahead together. Aggressively anticommunist, Chart Thai was backed by a number of prominent industrialists. After the July election, it was led by retired General Chatichai Choonhaven, whose relationship with Prem was friendly. On June 14, Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhaven visited Washington on his first state visit since being elected to office in July . This was no small achievement. For the first time there are hopeful signs that a peace settlement can be achieved in Cambodia that excludes the Khmer Rouge and unites the non-Communists with the State of Cambodia in a new Cambodian Government. The Thais under the leadership of Prime Minister Chatichai labored long and hard to create peace in Cambodia. Much of what they had done has occurred out of the limelight. Many times the Thais had taken positions antithetical to those of other countries in the region, including the Chinese who continue to support the Khmer Rouge and who have in the past been active supporters of the Thai Communist Party. Premier Choonhaven was arrested February 23, in a military coup, by one count the 18th since . This coup was a short-lived affair headed by army chief General Suchinda Kraprayoon and ended with a return to democratic civilian government in March . Chatichai was arrested by the soldiers who were ordered by the military to intervene as he was in the airport hangar because of corruption charges and the accusation of inability against him. Black May is a common name for the May popular protest in Bangkok against the government of General Suchinda Kraprayoon and the bloody military crackdown that followed. Up to , people demonstrated in central Bangkok at the height of the protests. The military crackdown resulted in 52 officially confirmed deaths, many disappearances, hundreds of injuries, and over 3, arrests. Many of those arrested were tortured. Massive public protests immediately followed. On May 9, Suchinda responded by saying that he would support a constitutional amendment making individuals who had not been elected to Parliament ineligible for the Premiership. The truce was short-lived. On May 17, the two leading government parties announced that, while they supported the constitutional amendment, they also favoured transitional clauses that would permit Suchinda to serve as prime minister for the term of the Parliament. Suchinda threatened to sack the Governor of Bangkok for allegedly assisting the anti-government rallies of the previous week, while the army hastily arranged a competing "Anti-Drought Musical Festival" to be held at the Army Auditorium. In addition, radio stations were banned from playing records of several popular singers who had voiced their support for the demonstrators. Nevertheless, the rally was the biggest since the downfall of the Thanom regime in . At its peak, , people filled Sanam Luang, overflowing on to the encircling streets. As they reached the intersection of Rachadamnoen and Rachadamnoen Nok Avenues, they were halted at Phan Fa Bridge, which had been barricaded with razor wire by the police. The protesters then tried to commandeer one of the fire trucks, and

were clubbed by riot police armed with batons. Stones and Molotov cocktails were soon flying. Chamlong used a loudspeaker to exhort the marchers not to attack the police, but his words were lost in the unrest. In this initial clash, about protesters and 21 police were injured. By midnight two fire engines had been set alight, and things were spiralling out of control. Some troops had been called in and the fighting fanned out from Phan Fa Bridge. The government urged people to go home, but already hospitals in the area were receiving the wounded, including four with gunshot wounds who died later that night. An hour and a half later, they began firing again. By the morning, the army moved more troops in, and crowds grew even larger at other sections of the city. Shortly later, troops, firing continuously in the air, moved in on the crowd surrounding Chamlong. The troops handcuffed and arrested Chamlong. The crowds did not disperse, and the violence escalated. After government troops had secured the area around Phan Fa Bridge and the Democracy Monument, protests shifted to Ramkhamhaeng University across the city. By the evening of 19 May, some fifty thousand people had gathered there. Early on the morning of 20 May, Princess Sirindhorn addressed the country on television, calling for a stop to the unrest. Her appeal was rebroadcast throughout the day. In the evening, her brother, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, broadcast a similar public appeal. Following the broadcast, Suchinda released Chamlong and announced an amnesty for protesters. He also agreed to support an amendment requiring the prime minister to be elected. Chamlong asked the demonstrators to disperse, which they did. King Bhumipol Rama IX had to lend a hand to stop the bloodshed confrontation. Afterwards, Suchinda was forced to resign and Anan Panyarchun was appointed to the temporary primer at that time. Over the next five years, Thailand had four elections and a variety of coalition governments.

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Is a Coinsurance Raise Good? Although this program earns very high popularity among voters, attempts to reverse the national health schemes back to the pre-Thaksin one has been observed. Those attempts seemed to be incredible during under majority voting regime, however, they have become more plausible since the military government seized the power in This article will explain how the universal health coverage is at risk of being overturned under dictatorship, in which the elites from the supply side of the healthcare market captures the political power. The 30 Baht program offers a large coverage, including office visit, inpatient admission including C-sections and medication including antiretroviral drugs. The 30 Baht program benefits its enrollees through multiple channels. First, it reduces the risk of catastrophic out-of-pocket medical expenditure. Limwattananon et al find that because of the fixed copay of 30 Baht household medical expenditure risk was reduced by three-fifths. The 30 Baht program is heavily subsidized by the Thai government. Immediately after the initiation of the 30 Baht program, public hospitals received an approximately four-fold increase in funding. Although the size of the 30 Baht program budget is even smaller than that on defense, it is still often blamed as a government budget burden by conservative medical doctors. Under the universal health coverage scheme, the government is the single payer in the healthcare market. As a result, the supply side of the market, including the Medical Council, private hospitals, and pharmaceutical firms, loses its negotiation power to the demand side, in which the collective action is centralized by the government. He opined that, aligned with the pharmaceutical firms, the conservative medical doctors in the MOPH has been attempting to take down the universal coverage. This proposed financing scheme has a heterogeneous effect on the patients. Imagine a person having an atrial fibrillation and she needs an intervention named AF ablation, which costs THB , to cure it. The medical council argues that raising the coinsurance is the only way to keep the government from bankruptcy. Is raising the coinsurance is the only solution? I argue that, if the estimated value of the program mainly comes from reduced catastrophic medical expenditure risk, raising the coinsurance may nullify the welfare benefit that the enrollees receive from the 30 Baht program. The survey teams have conducted the baseline and follow-up interviews on approximately sampled households from the rural areas in Chachoengsao, Lop Buri, Buriram and Sri Saket on a monthly basis since The surveys provide extensive panel data at the household level for non-medical expenditure, medical expenditure, and health outcomes. This implies that the 30 Baht program greatly benefits those who would have paid catastrophic medical expenditure out of their pockets. These summary statistics are confirmed by the estimation using the economic model. Table 1 shows that the estimated value per dollar cost of the 30 Baht program is 75 cents per a dollar of government spending. It also shows that all the value of the program is from consumption smoothing. Estimates of the value of the 30 Baht program.

Chapter 3 : Can Thailand be saved by a coup d'etat? | Thailand | Al Jazeera

Here is a list of the major attempted military coups d'etat from until the coup on Saturday. --June 24, , by People's Party, successfully overthrowing the absolute monarchy.

The military established a junta called National Council for Peace and Order to govern the nation. The timeline of events via ABC News: November 1, Anti-government protesters rally in Bangkok against a proposed amnesty bill for political offenses committed since Critics claim it will protect Mr Thaksin and allow him to return to Thailand from self-exile in Dubai without punishment. November 24, Anti-government protests in Bangkok draw large crowds. Democrat Party opposition leader Suthep Thaugsuban resigns to lead protests. November 24, Government and ministerial offices surrounded by tens of thousands of protesters. November 30, Pro-Yingluck Red Shirts rally in Bangkok, and clash with anti-government demonstrators, leaving four dead and dozens injured. December 1 - 2, Street clashes continue. More than , anti-government protesters rally in the streets demanding an end to the rule of the Shinawatra family. January 18, Tensions increase in Bangkok after a suspected grenade attack on opposition protesters leaves one dead and more than 30 injured. January , Anti-government protesters gather for three days of marches in Bangkok in a final bid to disrupt the general election. Government supporters and opposition protesters open fire on each other in the streets of Bangkok, wounding nine people. February 2, The general election is held amid anti-government protests. After the vote, the Election Commission announces polling was disrupted in 18 per cent of constituencies - 69 out of nationwide. May 7, The Constitutional Court delivers a guilty verdict, of abuse of power. May 8, Former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra is found guilty of the negligence charge over a state rice-buying scheme. Anti-Coup Protest, May 25, I arrived in Bangkok from my home in Rural Thailand on the evening of May 23, I had come to Bangkok to meet with a student on the 24th, and also to capture and report on any of the events that I might run into. On the morning on the 25th I followed my instincts and Jang and I traveled to central Bangkok where I thought there could possibly be a protest against the coup. There was a red shirt protester on the ground in the middle of the soldiers defensive formation. An ambulance arrived to take away the red shirt protester, and when he was removed the army regrouped in front of the McDonalds restaurant across the street. It is at this McDonalds that the rest of the protest took place. I was at the protest for approximately five hours. During this time there were several confrontations that were mostly shoving matches between the protesters and the soldiers. It is hard to estimate the number of protesters due to a large press corps and many bystanders, but the numbers were small. I would say the people actually involved in the protests never exceeded five hundred. The protesters were very vocal shouting insults and obscenities at the soldiers, but there was no real violence to speak of. My Thoughts It is illegal at the moment, May 28, to express an opinion that is contrary to the military junta ruling Thailand. All foreign news is blocked on TV, and local news that is not supportive of the military coup has been taken off the air and some reporters have been arrested. On-line Thailand news sources are censored and some internet reporters have also been arrested. I have always supported freedom of the press and will continue to do so. I will also always support free and fair elections, no matter how painful the process of freedom becomes. There is no government on the face of the earth in the year that can stop the press and the flow of information. Trying to do so is an exercise in futility, it is just not going to happen. It is important to realize that my images of the 25th are of people, not politics. I like and respect all of the Thai soldiers I have met. Remember that rank and file soldiers do not make policy, and are not responsible for the decisions of leadership. The common Thai soldier is no more responsible for political decisions than the common American soldier. Just as we learned from Viet Nam not to blame the foot soldier for decisions made in Washington, the same must be said the Thai men and women in uniform. As for the protesters they are exercising freedom of speech and expressing their disapproval of the coup, and on this day did so in a peaceful manner. The protesters actions are illegal under the current government. I believe Thailand will survive this political crisis. It may however, be a long uphill battle. All I can say is stay tuned, and because of the heated viewpoints, watch and listen with an open mind.

Chapter 4 : Coup d'Etat Archives - Past Daily

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To view more about this coup look at the news sites at the left-hand column in my blog. In an announcement flashed across national television, they said they comprised the commanders of the three armed forces and the national police chief. The council cited unprecedented division in the country, widespread suspicion of abuse of power, and activities bordering on lese majeste for taking power for a period they promised would be temporary. The coup came after Mr Thaksin declared a state of emergency in Bangkok. In a statement relayed from New York and carried by Channel 9, he sacked the army chief and put the armed forces supreme commander, Gen Ruengroj Mahasaranont, in charge of enforcing the state of emergency. The council said it had the situation under control and there was no resistance. As of press time, it was not known how long the council would remain in power and when it would appoint an interim government. The council revoked the State of Emergency declared by Mr Thaksin and imposed martial law at around 11.30. Shortly afterwards, the council abrogated the constitution, dissolved the Constitution Court, the caretaker government and the Senate. The council was reported to be based at army headquarters on Ratchadamnoen Nok avenue. The council was reported to have blocked the website of a so-called fake media outlet calling itself The Reporter. Sources later told the Bangkok Post that troops had burst into the offices of Channel 9 and told the station officers to stop running the station. Sources said Privy Council president Gen Prem Tinsulanonda yesterday tried to mediate between troops loyal to the army chief and another army faction loyal to Mr Thaksin. During the talks, Gen Prem was reported to have been summoned to the Royal Palace. Nothing more was known. The council leaders were also summoned to the palace late last night. The forestry police are equipped with HK 33 rifles and well trained for confrontations with the protesters. The army last month asked the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department to return around 1,000 rifles, which were loaned to forest rangers several years ago. But Gen Sonthi at the time downplayed the political implications of a plan to take back of the rifles, saying the army was in dire need of weapons. The source said several cabinet ministers had been alerted about the coup yesterday afternoon and many started to pack their belongings and left their offices for good. In New York, government spokesman Surapong Suebwonglee denied the coup had been successful, saying the seizure of TV station headquarters did not guarantee its success. Seizing power by means of a coup was no longer acceptable in the modern world. He said the coup makers comprised people losing power and benefits but he refused to be specific. He said Pol Gen Chidchai was not under arrest, as rumoured, because he had just spoken to him on the phone. He went on TV Channel 9 at about 11.30. TV Channel 5 still aired a programme about the royal activities as if nothing had happened. But the Thais all knew that something very unusual was going on when Channel 5, controlled by the Royal Army, removed its usual programme from the air. Rumours had swirled around the capital since the morning that a coup was imminent. There were unusual troop movements from the upcountry moving into Bangkok. The First Infantry Division had turned out to become the headquarters of unusual troop movements. They were joined by the troops of the Special Warfare Command from Lopburi, which used to be under the command of Gen Sonthi. They knew that the final showdown had come. There was a tense confrontation between the two opposing sides. Who would blink first? Whoever moved first in this dangerous game could be charged with treason against the state or the Constitution. A fuming Thaksin had realised all along that his battle against the Thai elite would boil down to this military confrontation. Through a voiceover heard over Channel 9, Thaksin read out the emergency statement ordering Gen Sonthi to report to the Office of the Prime Minister under the command of Pol Gen Chidchai Vanasadiya, the deputy prime minister. This technically amounted to a removal of Sonthi from his powerful post. He then assigned Ruengroj Mahasaranond, the supreme commander, to be in charge of all aspects of security in Bangkok. Thaksin learnt about the plot while he was in New York. At 9pm Bangkok time, he went to his hotel room and called the reporters from the Mass Communication Organisation of Thailand and Channel 11 to tell them that he would have an important message to tell them. As it turned out,

he would declare a state of emergency covering Bangkok in order to preempt a military coup at home. He thought he had an upper hand because he was an elected leader of a democratic country. But logistics did not go his way. Thaksin planned to have his message sent via satellite signal to Channel 9. But he was told that it could not be done technically. It would work out better if he spoke over the phone directly to the TV channel. Thaksin decided to switch to Channel 11 to air his state of emergency declaration. But before he could do so, the military took over Channel 9. The editors and reporters were taken to another room. All the other state-controlled TV stations, owned by the military, were ordered to stand by to air an important message. But somehow Thaksin did not face a total blackout. He was allowed to air his state of emergency declaration on Channel 9, with a still photo of him accompanied by his live telephone speech. Sources said the military confrontation could last until tomorrow while all the combat military personnel were summoned to station in their bases. At the time of going to the press, nobody would dare predict the final outcome. Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai appeared on CNN to try to calm the international audience, who had been wondering all along about the timing of the new election, about the political crisis in the capital. He said the army chief was trying to oust the democratically elected government and that Thaksin was still prime minister. But a few minutes later, at 11pm, the Gen Sonthi camp effectively took over with tanks parking at all the strategic places around the capital. A military coup was finally staged. It was as much a military war as a media war for control of the time slot. A statement was read out through all the TV channels that all the armed and police forces had taken control of Bangkok and the neighbouring areas without resistance. The names of the coup leaders, who called themselves a military reformist unit, were withheld. To maintain peace, the statement on behalf of the Political Reform Group sought cooperation from the public to maintain peace. It also apologised for any inconvenience the coup may cause to the Thai public. At first, it looked like a deadlock situation, without any party showing an upper hand or a convincing victory as yet. The situation was very confusing and remained very fluid. Troops supporting to the Thaksin camp still put up a resistance as of last night. There were reports that troops from Prachin Buri and Chacheongsao would move into the capital early this morning to fortify the position of Gen Sonthi. As the day was over, it appeared that the Gen Sonthi camp gained the advantage. He forbid any troop movements without his order. Political sources said it would be interesting to see how the confrontation would develop and how the Thaksin camp would rally supporters to protest against the coup. Nobody could predict the final outcome as Thaksin looked serious that he would fight to his political end. Thaksin could go to the UN to tell the whole world not to accept the coup at home. The Sonthi camp has also crossed the threshold into uncharted territories. The Thai military launched a coup against Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Tuesday night, circling his offices with tanks, seizing control of TV stations and declaring a provisional authority pledging loyalty to the king. Crispin BANGKOK "Caretaker Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted in a military coup on Tuesday evening, marking what appears to be a dramatic end to a political stalemate that has pitched the embattled politician against an opposition movement backed by conservative elements close to the Thai palace. Troops loyal to Thai army commander General Sonthi Boonyaratklin, a palace loyalist, led the army-led putsch and surrounded Government House and parliament with tanks and troops. Thaksin had appeared on Thai television to declare a state of emergency but was cut off in mid-speech" Read More Coup as Army Seizes Power in Thailand By John Aglionby and Ewen MacAskill Thailand was thrown into turmoil today when the army sent tanks and troops into the capital to wrest power from the prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra, while he was attending the United Nations general assembly in New York. In the first military intervention for 15 years in the notoriously coup-prone country, the army threw a cordon of tanks round the government offices in Bangkok, seized control of television stations, and revoked the constitution. The coup leaders ordered all soldiers not involved to remain in their barracks. Army Commander-in-Chief Sonthi Boonyaratklin took the reins of power without a government title after Thaksin telephoned a Thai television station from New York to announce a state of emergency in an apparent attempt to head off the coup" Read More Advertisements.

Chapter 5 : Coup d'État | Uglytruth-Thailand

There has been a Coup d'État in Thailand. On 22 May , the Royal Thai Armed Forces, led by General Prayuth Chan-ocha, Commander of the Royal Thai Army launched a coup d'État against the caretaker government of Thailand, following six months of political crisis.

Home Op-ed Thailand in danger: Watch out for yet another coup Andre Vltchek is a philosopher, novelist, filmmaker and investigative journalist. He has covered wars and conflicts in dozens of countries. View his other books here. He can be reached through his website and his Twitter. Several senior generals, including Army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, are now sending confusing messages that are often open to a diverse interpretation. On February 25, The Bangkok Post implicitly suggested that the army might be tempted to carry out a coup, because of the planned action by the so-called red-shirts the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship [UDD] to defend the present government. Reacting to the same speech, The New York Times wrote that that stance is seen as a shift after months of neutrality and a signal to protesters: But what are they? The main arteries including iconic Sukumvit, are blocked and have turned into sprawling tent cities. Noise pollution from loudspeakers broadcasting anti-government propaganda, speeches and cheap political music is omnipresent. Tasteless cartoons depicting the former prime minister, naked and with an exposed and grotesquely small penis, are decorating many stands and electric poles. Thugs-turned-vigilantes are now in charge of many overpasses. The tension is high and hatred can be felt at all protest sites. Everything is well organized. There are expensive and heavy electric generators humming day and night, there are medical posts, and food distribution centers. As most top ranking members of Thai elites, he was educated abroad, in his case at the University of Oxford, in the United Kingdom. A former member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Phromphan is clear and sharp linguistically, but not always transparent when it comes to the substance. He did not like to talk about turned-over cars, or about the government officials who are forced to climb over the makeshift blockades, humiliated at various checkpoints, whenever they are trying to perform their duties. He refused to give any credit to this government. In , the Red Shirts were fighting for equality. In a way, for many of them, it meant a class struggle. This, here, right now " it is not a class struggle. We are not dealing with class issues in our movement. That is an extremely old-fashioned authoritarian approach, very similar to those applied by fascist pro-Western dictators like Pinochet and Suharto: Millions of Thai citizens were denied their right to vote, and at least 10 percent of polling stations had to shut down. Some voters were physically attacked, and one was almost choked to death in front of the cameras. Phromphan did not mention several other important topics, including what and who is behind his movement. But the king is old and frail; and the Crown Prince is seen as close to the Shinawatras. Once installed on the throne, he is thought likely to push for continued democratic rule by the elected majority rather than by self-appointed councils. They see this as their last chance to secure their privileges against the great unwashed in the red-shirt camp supporting Ms. He was much more explicit, and when I pressed him on the topic of the military and the monarchy, he exclaimed: Both of the institutions " yes " It is one of the reasons why we are here! Phromphan took place on Feb. This itself is a bizarre occurrence, as the BACC, one of the leading art institutions of Southeast Asia, is a state-run and state-funded art establishment, and as such should be either supportive of the government, or at least preserving its neutrality. Then a bomb or grenade exploded around 5: The blast occurred at Ratchaprasong intersection, between the entrance to an enormous shopping mall, Siam World, and the entrance to the Big C Supermarket. PDRC people informed me of the tragedy. They were surprisingly calm; there was no panic. I ran to Siam World and what I saw first was a chain of ambulances with flashing lights, the military crew and police. There was blood on the pavement, and some shoes left in the puddles of gore. There was a shoe that used to belong to a child; it was abandoned and bloodstained. One day later, the dead toll climbed to four. The protests that began on November 30, , took so far at least 22 lives, and the pace of violence is dramatically accelerating. Over people have so far been injured. One day before the Ratchaprasong explosion, two 5-year-old girls were killed in Trat province when gunmen opened fire at the protesters. At times, it all increasingly resembles the Kiev scenario, and remotely, the Caracas, Venezuela, situation. If there is yet

another military coup, one could also easily draw a parallel between Egypt and Thailand. Pro-Western elites are attacking an elected government, or they simply pay for such attacks. The West watches and does nothing, or it is supporting its old allies, the elites, from behind the scenes. And in the worst possible scenario, it could all still end in terrible bloodshed. Surprisingly, the leadership sounded reconciliatory and calm. I met one of the leaders of the Red Shirts, Mr. Krisanapong Phrombuengram, who appeared more like a negotiator than a warrior. I asked him about the chance of the north or northeast seceding, something that is seen by many Thais as a real danger, and whether there would be another coup and suppression of democracy. Shinawatra was not a saint. Under his rule, Mr. Shinawatra introduced a universal free medical care system; some argue it is much better and more advanced than anything proposed in the United States. Primary and secondary education improved significantly, and needy people began to be housed. The West was not betting on him, as he was too pragmatic and too interested in turning Thailand into a modern and competitive state. The West was betting on the old military establishment and on the monarchy, on the old generation of right-wing rulers from the Cold War era, like Marcos, Suharto, Mubarak and the Saudi royal family. Thailand has been a staunch ally of the West, before, during and after the Vietnam War. Millions of sorties were flown from Pattaya and other military airports. Millions of Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian people died as a result of the carpet bombing and weapons that originated in Thailand. Many sorties were actually flown by Thai pilots. But would they reform the army? The statements, views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of RT.

Chapter 6 : Thailand - Coup d'etat! >

The Soviet coup d'État attempt, also known as the August Putsch or August Coup (Russian: Августовский путч, Avgustovskiy Putsch), was a coup d'État attempt by a group of members of the Soviet Union's government to take control of the country from Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

In looser usage as in intelligence coup, boardroom coup the term simply refers to gaining a sudden advantage on a rival. The pronunciamiento is the formal explanation for deposing the regnant government, justifying the installation of the new government that was effected with the golpe de Estado. Western Africa had most of them, 42; most were against civil regimes; 27 were against military regimes; and only in five were the deposed incumbents killed. Types Edit The political scientist Samuel P. Generally led by mid-level or junior officers. Examples are China in , Bulgaria in , Egypt in , Turkey in , Greece in , Libya in , Portugal in and Liberia in . The stated aim of such a coup is usually improving public order and efficiency, and ending corruption. There usually is no fundamental change to the power structure. Generally, the leaders portray their actions as a temporary and unfortunate necessity. Nations with guardian coups can frequently shift back and forth between civilian and military governments. Example countries include Pakistan, Turkey and , and Thailand. The same happened in Argentina throughout the period “”, and was attempted in Russia in . In , Brazil became a republic via bloodless coup; in , Pervez Musharraf assumed power in Pakistan via a bloodless coup ; and, in , Sonthi Boonyaratglin assumed power in Thailand as the leader of the Council for Democratic Reform under Constitutional Monarchy. The self-coup denotes an incumbent government “” aided and abetted by the military “” assuming extra-constitutional powers. Another form of self-coup is when a government, having been defeated in an election, refuses to step down. Opposition can take many different forms, including an attempted counter-coup by sections of the armed forces, international isolation of the new regime, and military intervention. Sometimes opposition takes the form of civil resistance , in which the coup is met with mass demonstrations from the population generally, and disobedience among civil servants and members of the armed forces. Boris Yeltsin , President of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, stood on top of a tank in the centre of Moscow and urged people to refuse co-operation with the coup. In Latin America, it was common for the post-coup government to be led by a junta , a committee of the chiefs of staff of the armed forces. A common form of African post-coup government is the revolutionary assembly, a quasi-legislative body elected by the army. In Pakistan, the military leader typically assumes the title of chief martial law administrator. This view of government underestimates the difficulty of implementing government policy, and the degree of political resistance to certain correct orders. It presupposes that everyone who matters in the country shares a single, common interest, and that the only question is how to pursue that single, common interest.

Chapter 7 : Soviet coup d'État attempt - Wikipedia

February 22, A failed coup attempt led by Colonel Talat Aydemir due to the discontent by the election results on July 9, May 20, A second failed coup attempt led by officers loyal to Colonel Talat Aydemir who was retired after the previous coup attempt.

That is just not the case and the real cause of the crisis lies elsewhere. Thailand does not have an absolute monarch or North Korean-style despot in his twilight years, with factions fighting over who will be the next ruler. The Thai absolute monarchy was overthrown in the revolution, and since then, power has been shared and disputed among the military and civilian elites and the top businessmen. For much of the time between and the mids, the elites ruled by dictatorship. But this has become harder and harder to do ever since the mass uprising against the military in . The reason for this is that the structure of Thai society has changed. There are more and more workers, both blue collar and white collar and the new generation of workers and farmers are more confident and educated. The monarch has always been weak and cowardly, a creature of the military and the elites who surround him and use him for their own ends. He was ill-prepared to become king when his older brother died in a gun accident. He was introduced to the Throne during a time when the most powerful military and police faction was led by anti-royalists who had participated in the revolution. But rivals of this faction sought to use and promote the King. They came to power during the Sarit coup in the late s and the monarch was promoted as part of the anti-communist struggle during the Cold War. King Pumphon was used by the Thai military and conservative elites, together with the U. He was also required to appear on TV to stop the uprising from toppling the whole old order. Throughout his reign, Pumphon has swayed like a leaf, bending in the wind and serving as a willing tool of those who happened to be in power. He failed to prevent or solve any serious crisis. He supported the extreme right-wing leader Tanin Kraiwichien in , only to see Tanin swept aside by the military a year later. He supported the military coup leader Sujinda, only to see the junta destroyed by a popular uprising. But no one took it seriously enough to think it could really be an economic strategy which could be practically applied for economic development. The fixation by political commentators on the monarch and the royal family may be understandable, given the way the elites make the king into a deity, but we should expect a better quality of analysis. The first question that should be asked is: The more Thai society develops into a modern capitalist one, the more difficult it has become for the elites to rule over the population using crude authoritarian means. The interesting point to bear in mind is that the frenzied promotion of the King actually accelerated from the mids onwards, as the elites were forced to make more and more concessions to parliamentary democracy. It was an attempt to slow down progress and insulate elite privileges from change. For those who believe that the King is a powerful figure even today, one just has to look at reality. How can a man who has spent years in hospital or in a wheel chair and who can hardly speak, order the army to do anything? During the recent coup, General Prayut did not even make any pretence at seeking advice and permission from the King. So there is no absolute monarch in his final years causing a potential power vacuum. But what about the idea that the various elite factions are really fighting about who will control the Crown Prince when he becomes king? Make no mistake; all sides have agreed that the scandal-prone and despicable prince will be the next king. Controlling the Crown Prince will be very easy. He is even more cowardly, selfish and disinterested than his father. Power does not reside with the monarchy. If the King were to die soon, and there is no guarantee that he will, nothing will change. The Crown Prince is even less capable of supporting democratic reforms than his father. But many Red Shirts seem to have ridiculous hopes pinned on this nasty idiot. The theory of a crisis of succession is merely an elite top-down myth, which ignores the real economic and social fractures in Thai society which became clearer and clearer after the economic crisis. It writes the majority of citizens out of the picture, blinding people about the role of the Red Shirts. It should be confined to circles that love to excite themselves with conspiracy theories.

Chapter 8 : Coup d'État in Thailand " Lee's Blog "

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The evidence of this century is that Thailand is not a democracy at all. It is a good thing that international newspapers come out and clearly denounce the coup. But we need to add important details. In Thailand the democratic space has been fought over for almost a century. It has been a constant struggle between the rulers and the ruled. The military domination of Thai politics, started soon after the revolution which overthrew the absolute monarchy. But its consolidation of power came with the Sarit military coup in 1957. The economic development during the years of the highly corrupt military dictatorship in the 50s and 60s, took place in the context of a world economic boom and a localised economic boom created by the Korean and Vietnam wars. This economic growth had a profound impact on the nature of Thai society. The size of the working class increased as factories and businesses were developed. However, under the dictatorship trade union rights were suppressed and wages and conditions of employment were tightly controlled. Illegal strikes had already occurred throughout the period of dictatorship, but strikes increased rapidly due to general economic discontent in the early 70s. Economic development also resulted in a massive expansion of student numbers and an increased intake of students from working class backgrounds. The new generation of students, in the early 70s, were influenced by the revolts and revolutions which occurred throughout the world in that period, May in Paris being a prime example. In late 1973 the arrest of 11 academics and students for handing out leaflets demanding a democratic constitution, resulted in hundreds of thousands of students and workers taking to the streets of Bangkok in October. As troops with tanks fired on unarmed demonstrators, the people of Bangkok began to fight-back. Bus passengers spontaneously alighted from their vehicles to join the demonstrators. Government buildings were set on fire. Earlier they had been fired upon by the police. The successful 14th October mass uprising against the military dictatorship shook the Thai ruling class to its foundations. For the next few days, there was a strange new atmosphere in Bangkok. Uniformed officers of the state disappeared from the streets and ordinary people organised themselves to clean up the city. It was the first time that the pu-noi little people had actually started a revolution from below. It was not planned and those that took part had only vague notions about what kind of democracy and society they wanted. But the Thai ruling class could not shoot enough demonstrators to protect their regime. It was not just a student uprising to demand a democratic constitution. Success in over-throwing the military dictatorship bred increased confidence. Workers, peasants and students began to fight for more than just parliamentary democracy. On the 1st May a quarter of a million workers rallied in Bangkok and a year later half a million workers took part in a general strike against price increases. In the countryside small farmers began to build organisations and they came to Bangkok to make their voices heard. Workers and peasants wanted social justice and an end to long-held privileges. A Triple Alliance between students, workers and small farmers was created. Some activists wanted an end to exploitation and capitalism itself. The first democratic elections, since the October uprising were held in January 1975. Parliament had a Left colouring and government policies reflected a need to deal with pressing social issues. Left-wing parties, such as the New Force Party, the Socialist Party of Thailand and the Socialist Front Party gained 37 seats out of a total of 250 but did not join any coalition governments. It was not long before the ruling class and the conservative middle classes fought back. In the early hours of 6th October 1976, Thai uniformed police, stationed in the grounds of the National Museum, next door to Thammasat University, destroyed a peaceful gathering of students and working people on the university campus under a hail of relentless automatic fire. Women and men, dead or alive, were subjected to the utmost degrading and violent behaviour. The actions of the police and right-wing mobs on 6th October were the culmination of attempts by the ruling class to stop the further development of a socialist movement in Thailand. The events at Thammasat University were followed by a military coup which brought to power one of the most right-wing governments Thailand has ever known. In the days that followed, offices and houses of organisations and individuals were raided. Trade unionists were arrested and trade union rights were curtailed. Centre-Left and left-wing newspapers were closed and their offices ransacked. Thousands of activists joined the armed struggle led by

the Communist Party of Thailand in remote rural areas. The struggle was ultimately unsuccessful, but it managed to put a great deal of pressure on the ruling class. This coincided with splits and arguments between the student activists and the conservative CPT leaders. By the student activists had all returned to the city as the CPT collapsed. Thailand returned to an almost full parliamentary democracy, but with one special condition: But the economic boom helped to damp down discontent. Three years later the military staged a coup against an elected government which it feared would reduce its role in society. Resistance to the coup took a year to gather momentum, but in May a mass uprising in Bangkok braved the deadly gunfire from the army and overthrew the junta. Many key activists in this uprising cut their teeth in the struggles from the s. Four years after this uprising, Thailand experienced a deep economic crisis. Activists pushed for a new, more democratic constitution, in the hope that the country could escape from the cycle of corruption, human rights abuses and military coups. The election victory was in response to previous government policy under the Democrats, which had totally ignored the plight of the rural and urban poor during the crisis. TRT also made 3 important promises to the electorate. These were 1 a promise to introduce a Universal Health Care Scheme for all citizens, 2 a promise to provide a 1 million baht loan to each village in order to stimulate economic activity and 3 a promise to introduce a debt moratorium for poor peasants. The policies of TRT arose from a number of factors, mainly the economic crisis and the influence of both big-business and some ex-student activists from the s within the party.

