

Events

- **1932** → **Khana Ratsadorn (People's party)**
 - Also known as the Siamese revolution of 1932
 - Change from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy and parliamentary government
 - First Thai constitution was established
 - Famous law/idea = Draft National Economic Plan/ Yellow Cover Dossier
 - By Pridi Phanomyong
 - This event was marked by the Thai revolution plaque
- **1933** → **Phraya Manopakorn Nititada**
 - Also known as the Silent coup d'état of 1933
 - This coup resulted in the shifting of power within the military
- **1933** → **Phraya Pahol Phonpayahasena**
 - Also known as the Coup d'état of 1933
- **1945** → The country name changed back from Thailand to Siam
 - During the time that Seni Pramoj was in office
- **1947** → **Pin Choohavan**
 - 8/11/1947
 - Known as Coup d'état of 1947
- **1948** → **Pin Choohavan**
 - 6/4/1948
 - Known as the Coup d'état of 1948
- **1951** → **Led by the coup group**
 - Known as the Radio Coup d'état of 1951
 - Also known as the silent coup of Thailand
 - It consolidated the military's hold on the country and also reinstated the 1932 constitution, which effectively eliminated the Senate and allowed serving military officers to have more power.
 - The coup group appointed field marshal Phibunsongkhram, one of 'the four musketeers' and a pro-Japanese, as the new prime minister
- **1957** → **led by Sarid Thanarat**
 - 16/9/1957
 - Known as the Coup d'état of 1957

- **1958** → **led by Sarid Thanarat**
 - 20/10/1958
 - Known as the Coup d'etat of 1958

- **1967** → **Establishment of ASEAN**
 - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand signed a document which established the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This founding lead to the most successful inter-governmental organization in the developing world today. The document is known as the ASEAN Declaration.
 - AEC contributes to growth of economic activities in Thailand. One important factor that make this happen is that ASEAN allows the reduction of import tax to 0, eliminating tariff barriers among ASEAN countries. By this, Thailand is able to increase the amount of trade.
 - Furthermore, Thailand will gain more tourists after ASEAN community is opened. Since limitations in transportation system reduces and basic infrastructure for transportation across countries improves, this supports tourism industry attracting tourists to travel to Thailand.

- **1971** → **Led by Thanom Kittikachorn**
 - Led by Thanom Kittikachorn (Autocoup)
 - There was a constitution that gave Prime minister Thanom and his national executive council extreme power. Although, he promised to return the country into democracy as long as they stop threatening about communist.
 - Nine state universities formed the National Student Centre of Thailand (NSCT), which started to make campaigns and gather students from various universities successfully boycotting Japanese goods, resulting in government to take actions
 - Due to this success, students gained confidence to rebel against government policies.

- **1973** → **Democracy protest**
 - Also known as '14 October'
 - From the previous event during 1971-1972, students were displeased with the government
 - The police arrested citizens for having a political gathering of more than 5 people. Besides this, 12 students were arrested due to the fact that they were claimed as people that wanted to introduce communists ideology.
 - Students demanded the police to release those 12 arrested students unconditionally. They marched to the Democracy Monument and the thoughts of releasing prisoners rises to the attempt of resignation of Thanom.
 - Police brought in armies troops and started shooting machine guns from tanks and helicopters and exploded tear gas bombs in front of the royal palace.
 - The king announced for a stop in violence and that Thanom has resigned. It ended when Thanom's family was exiled

- **1976 → Led by Sangad Chaloryoo**
 - Known as the Silent coup d'état of 1976

- **1976 → Thammasat University massacre**
 - Students of Thammasat University assembled at the Thammasat University campus to protest against the return of the former prime minister Field Marshall Thanom Kittikachorn
 - The mock hanging of the student was seized as an act of lèse majesté since one of the students that was hanged resembles Prince Vajiralongkorn (currently King Rama X)
 - Armed border patrol and the right-wing vigilante groups, along with police forces stormed the campus, burned the students alive, lynched them from trees and shot them to death.
 - The National Administrative Reform Council had seized power in order to restore law and order.

- **1977 → Led by Sangad Chaloryoo**
 - 20/10/1977
 - Known as the October 1977 Thai coup d'état

- **1980 → General Prem Tinsulanonda took control**

- **1980-1988 → Premocracy**
 - Premocracy is an unique mixture of dictatorship and democracy
 - Prem became a prime minister with a strong support from “the young turks” or “tahan num”, a group of field officers formed from Class 7, a group of military officers who graduated the army cadet academy in 1960.

- **1988 → General Chatichai Choonhavan replaced Prem after elections**

- **1991 → led by Sunthorn Kongsompong and Suchinda Kraprayoon**
 - 23/2/1991
 - Known as the Coup d'état of 1991
 - The coup-makers are called the Nation Peace-Keeping Council (NPKC)
 - Overthrew the government of Chaitichai Choonhavan

- **1992 → Black May**
 - An uprising against military-dominated government of General Suchinda Kraprayoon led by Chamlong Srimuang and Dr.San Hatthirat
 - Troops shot at pro-democracy demonstrators, leading to deaths and injuries

- The commotion was settled by the intervention of the royalties, including Princess Sirindhorn, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn (currently known as King Rama X), and the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej (King Rama IX)
- It leads to the promulgation of the 1997 constitution later on
- **1997 → Asian Economics Crisis starts with the baht's devaluation**
 - Also known as the Tom Yum Kung financial crisis
 - It was caused mainly by the attacks of the currency by traders, which later caused bubble economy breaks
 - Before the crisis, the monetary system was a currency basket, which means the value of Thai Baht was fixed. However, the monetary system was changed to floating exchange rate, which result in the revelation of the real value of Thai Baht, which was actually lower than it was before and led to Economic crisis in Thailand where many privates sectors are in debt and Thailand have to get loans from IMF
- **2001 → New coalition government formed by Thai Rak Thai had Thaksin Shinawatra as a leader**
- **2004 → Emergence of dispute in Southern Thailand**
 - The dispute take place in the former Sultanate of Pattani, which includes Narathiwat, Yala, and Pattani; also known as the three Southern Border Provinces (SBP).
 - Although low-level insurgency was present before, the conflict had escalated in 2004.
 - The cause of the dispute is the Thaification, which was enforced by the National Culture Act, which aims to the cultural assimilation of the Patani people, leading to the demand for autonomy from the Patani people.
 - Local leaders had demanded a level of autonomy from Thailand for the Patani region. However, the the Berisan Revolusi National-Koodinasi (BRN-C), who are the leader of the insurgency side lined the local leaders. The BRN-C has the aim to make Southern Thailand ungovernable, in which the attempt regarding the aim was successful so far.
- **2006 → Led by Sonthi Boonyaratglin**
 - Known as the Coup d'etat of 2006
 - Organized in a Council for Democratic Reform (CDR)
 - Against the government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra
 - Outlawed the Thai Rak Thai party of Thaksin Shinawatra and banned the party executives from contesting in elections for 5 years

- The royal military enhanced the influence of the military by revitalising the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) after the coup succeed in overthrowing Thaksin government.
 - Many claims that the military want to turn Thailand back to the system of 'semi-democracy', in which the military and bureaucrats had significant power over elected politicians.
- **2008** → **Thai - Cambodia border dispute**
 - Like other countries, Thailand and Cambodia share borders. This event occurred when Thai troops claimed that Preah Vihear that is located approximately 400 km north of Phnom Penh theirs. Five years after that, Cambodia proved that this regions is theirs by taking Thailand to the ICJ. They argued that the temple was linked to Angkor Wat which is 140 km to the south west. ICJ settled this situation, giving land to Cambodia with the explanation that Franco- Siamese 1908 map presents that the Preah Vihear is within the Cambodian border.
 - **2010** → **Thai political protest**
 - The event that gave rise to this event is the Coup d'etat of 2006, which ousted former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra and replaced him with Abhisit Vejjajiva.
 - Is the dichotomy in Thai citizens represented in two main socio-political groups, the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD/red shirt) and the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD).
 - The government was pressured by the UDD, leading the threatening from PAD to the government to hold counter protests. The counter protest by the PAD was being held official later on.
 - The military responded to both parties by using violence, returning Thailand to its normalcy.
 - **2014** → **Prayut Chan-O-Cha**
 - Known as the two step coup of May 2014
 - Imp. law → Interim constitution of the kingdom of Thailand 2014
 - During February 2014, there has been lots of prevention on holding the election due to a massive amount of people going against Yingluk. This results in the constitutional court having to remove the prime minister.
 - **2016** → **Death of H.M.King Bhumibol**
 - King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch as passed away after 70 years as the head of state
 - This event caused the grief of both the Thais and the citizens of the globe, with tributes flowing in from across the world.
 - Many concerns, mainly related to politics and economy, emerged after the announcement of the late King's passing by the royal palace.

People

- **Pridi Phanomyong**
 - One of the prominent leader of the People's party
 - The other one is Plaek Kittisakha (Luang Phibulsongkram/ Plaek Phibulsongkhram)
 - Regarded as the father of Thai democracy
- **Plaek Kittisakha**
 - Also known as Plaek Phibulsongkhram
 - Luang Phibulsongkhram is the title that was conferred by the King
 - Famous lines
 - "Your country is your house, the army is its fence"
 - "Our nation's security depends on believing in our leader"
 - Pro-Japanese
- **King Rama IX → mention during the event 'Death of King Rama IX'**
 - Seen as a unifying figure in the politically-volatile country
 - Inherited the throne when he was 18 years old
 - Was determined to modernize the nation to keep up to the global standards
 - Famous for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)
- **Prem Tinasulanonda → mention during the event 'Premocracy'**
 - He is a retired military officer who worked as the prime minister during 3 March, 1980 to 4 August, 1988.
 - He was the president of privy council (people who work for the monarch). He served as the regent of Thailand (ผู้สำเร็จราชการแทน) after the death of King Bhumibol during October 13, 2016 until December 1, 2016.
 - During the Thai political crisis in the mid-2000s, Prem was accused by Thaksin Shinawatra whom denied that Prem had any important political role.
 - He is known as the voice of the king for persuading people to follow the king's ideology and royal projects. He's also working to stop the South Thailand insurgency.
- **Chuan Leekpai → mention during the event 'Tom yum kung economic crisis'**
 - Chuan Leekpai was the prime minister of Thailand in two periods which were 20 September, 1992 to 19 May, 1995 and 9 November, 1997 and 9 February, 2001.
 - He studied at the temple school called Wat Amarintraram for six years. After that, he went to study laws at Thammasat University and graduated to work as a lawyer and politician.

- He was elected in 1992 after Suchinda Kraprayoon failed and was the first prime minister who was able to develop into power without using aristocratic or military backing.
- Belongs to Democrat Party
- During 1997, Chuan Leekpai had to take over the issue of economic crisis after Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

- **Thaksin Shinawatra → mention during the event in 2006**
 - Founder of the Thai Rak Thai Party in 1998
 - Is a businessman and is known for his economic reforms (known as Thaksinomics) including his well-known campaigns to support poor people (cheap medical care, debt relief)
 - Popular among poor people, but unpopular among rich people
 - In power for more than five years
 - The event that led to his downfall was selling telecom groups to Singaporean investors.
 -
 - Many protests occurred (the formation of Yellow-shirt and Red-shirt groups)
 - He was banned and exiled due to widespread corruption
 - After his party was banned in 2007, Samak Sundaravej became the next prime minister in which he was known as Thaksin's puppet.
 - Went to UK and did not appear in the court to pay for the corruption charges

- **Yingluck Shinawatra → mention during the event 'two steps coup'**
 - Thaksin Shinawatra's sister
 - Former businesswoman
 - Belongs to Pheu Thai Party
 - Thailand's first female prime minister
 - Faced a big problem (flooding in Thailand) while she was the prime minister
 - Remained in the prime minister position for nearly 3 years
 - In May 2014, the constitutional court forced Yingluck to step down because she was abusing her power (about the rice)
 - A political amnesty bill

Days

National Day

- Started since 1938
- Change accordingly to the King's birthday (since 1960)
- People celebrate 5 Dec (King Rama IX's birthday)
- Actually = 28 July (King Rama X's birthday)

Constitution Day

- December 10
- Celebrates Thailand's adoption of constitutional monarchy in 1932

Coronation Day

- Changes; depends on the coronation day of the King reigning at the time
- King Rama IX's coronation day → 5 May

Symbols

National flag and importance of symbol

- It was adopted September 28, 1917 (during Rama VI's reign)
- Red means blood of life
- White means purity since Thai has the religion of buddhism
- Blue represents monarchy
- White and blue is added more during WW1
- The flag is called Trianga or Triarong, meaning three colors.



Emblem of Thailand (Phaya Krut/ Garuda)

- Garuda is half human and half bird from the myth called Himmaman forest.
- Furthermore, they are a figure that was brought up from Hinduism and Buddhism. This symbol is used to represent royal family and authority and is referred to "*krut pha*" in Thai. In addition, it has human body and arms, a fierce or evil looking face, and bird's wings, legs, and tails. It is dressed up with gold accessories which are a crown, bracelets, armbands, a necklace, and a loincloth.



Thai Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

- They acted as vehicles for wars in Thailand during the nineteenth century. They are used for transportation and heavy work.
- White elephants are stated to be precious and they represent royal and official emblems.
- During 1921, King Vajiravudh (Rama VI) had passed a decree, making a law which protects wild elephant called The Wild Elephant Protection Act. This decree states that elephants are property of the government and ministry of interior (which acts as representative of the king). In addition, people would have to present white elephant to the king.



Ratchaphruek or the Pudding Piper Tree or the Indian Laburnum (*Cassia fistula* Linn)

- Ratchaphruek is considered as a type of flower that can be used for varieties of purposes, including different medical uses, ritual uses, and symbolization for the structure of building, buddhism and royal color. With these varieties of uses, Ratchaphruek was selected to be Thailand's national flower.

Sala Thai

- The other name of sala thai is known as Thai-style pavilion. It shows the beauty of Thailand which is different from other countries.
 - Is the only structure in authentic Thai style.
-

Monument of democracy

- A representation of the 1932 Constitution sits on top of two golden offering bowls above the turret
 - The constitution is symbolically guarded by four wing-like structures (Figure 2 below), representing the four branches of the Thai armed forces—army, navy, air force and police—which carried out the 1932 coup
 - It was built to commemorate the event that took place in 1932, which was the period of the end of absolute monarchy.
-

FUN FACTS

- **1939** → the country name changed from Siam to Thailand
 - During the time that Field Marshal Pibulsonggram was in office (Fun fact)
- Black economy (gambling, drug smuggling, prostitution, etc.) generates about 15-18% of GNP (Gross National Product)
- Complete sovereignty
- Thai brothers 'Eng&Chang Bunker' inspired the term 'Siamese twins'
- There are 35,000 temples in Thailand.
- Thailand's national sport, Muay Thai, is also known as the art of eight limb
- It is illegal to step on any Thai currency
- 1/10 of all animal species could be found in Thailand
- It is Thai culture to consider pointing at someone rude.
- Thailand is world's number one exporter of orchids and is world's number one producer of tin.
- The full name of Bangkok is Krungthepmahanakhon Amonrattanakosin Mahintharayutthaya Mahadilokphop Noppharatchathaniburirom Udomratchaniwetmahasathan Amonphimanawatansathit Sakkathattiyawitsanukamprasit.

References

18 facts you didn't know about Thailand | Travel Feature. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from

<https://www.roughguides.com/article/facts-about-thailand/>

25 Interesting Facts About Thailand. (2016, November 29). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from

<https://www.samujana.com/25-interesting-facts-about-thailand/>

An Overview of Politics and Government in Thailand. (n.d.). Retrieved 10 May, 2017 from

<http://human.uru.ac.th/ThaiStudies/AjYoungyut.pdf>

Baker, J. C., Phongpaichit, P. (2009). *A History of Thailand.* Cambridge:Cambridge University Press

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (Interim), B.E 2557(2014). (n.d). Retrieved 10 May,

2017 from http://asean-law.senate.go.th/files/Thailand_2014.pdf

Counting Thailand's coups. (2011). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from

<http://www.newmandala.org/counting-thailands-coups/>

Coups, Rebellions and Uprisings in Thailand Since 1902. (2014). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from

<http://www.arussell.com/2014/05/22/coups-rebellions-and-uprisings-in-thailand-since-1902/>

Dixon, C., (2002). *The Thai Economy.* Oxford:Routledge

Harding, A., Leyland, P. (2011). *The Constitution System of Thailand: A Contextual Analysis;*

Historical Analysis and Contemporary Issues in Thai Constitutionism. Oxford: Hart

Publishing

- Harlan, C. (2014). *The mass demonstrations have ended in Thailand, but the violence may continue. Here's why*. Retrieved May 10, 2017, from https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/mass-protests-fold-in-thailand-but-threat-of-violence-persists/2014/03/01/e2cdd1a8-97bc-11e3-ae45-458927ccedb6_story.html?tid=a_inl
- History*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://asean.org/asean/about-asean/history/>
- Ingram, S. (2002). *ASIA-PACIFIC | Thailand looks back to 'Black May'*. Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/1992450.stm>
- King Bhumibol Adulyadej: Thailand's International Monarch*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://www.thaiembassy.no/wordpress/blog/king-bhumibol-adulyadej-thailands-international-monarch/>
- Krastev, I. (2014). *Democracy Disrupted: The Politics of Global Protest*. Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press
- List of coups d'etat in Thailand*. (1991). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://www.upi.com/Archives/1991/02/23/List-of-coups-detat-in-Thailand/1951667285200/>
- Melvin, J. N. (2007). *Conflict in Southern Thailand: Islamist, Violence and the State in the Patani Insurgency*. Sweden; CM Gruppen
- Minahan, J. (2009). *The Complete Guide to National Symbol and Emblem [2 Volumes]*. California: ABC-CLIO
- National Flags and Symbols*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://thailand.prd.go.th/ebook2/inbrief/page.php?cid=4>

Pathmanad, U. (n.d.). *A different coup d'état?*. Retrieved May 10, 2017, from

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/citedby/10.1080/00472330701651994?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

Pike, J. (n.d.). *Military*. Retrieved May 10, 2017, from

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/thailand/coup-1932.htm>

Pridi Banomyong – the father of Thai democracy. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from

<http://www.tour-bangkok-legacies.com/pridi-banomyong.html>

Profile: Thaksin Shinawatra. (2011, June 24). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-13891650>

Rough Guides. (2015). *The Rough Guide to Thailand's Beaches and Islands*. London: Penguins

Liow, R., Leifer, M. (2014). *Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Southeast Asia*.

Oxford:Routledge

Royal Thai Government Gazette. (2001) *ประกาศสำนักนายกรัฐมนตรี เรื่อง การกำหนด*

สัญลักษณ์ประจำชาติไทย. Retrieved 28 July 2012. from

<http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2544/D/099/1.PDF>

Schliesinger, J. (2015). *Elephants in Thailand Vol 1: Mahouts and Their Cultures Today*.

Bangkok:Booksmango

Tamada, Y. (1995). *Coups in Thailand, 1980-1991: Classmates, Internal Conflicts and Relations*

with the Government of the Military. Southeast Asian Studies, 33. Retrieved from

<https://kyoto-seas.org/pdf/33/3/330303.pdf>

- Taylor, A., & Kaphle, A. (2014). *Thailand's army just announced a coup. Here are 11 other Thai coups since 1932*. Retrieved May 10, 2017, from https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2014/05/20/thailands-army-says-th-is-definitely-isnt-a-coup-heres-11-times-it-definitely-was/?utm_term=.e8aab5299ddd
- Thailand History Timeline*. (2017). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/thailand/thtimeln.htm>
- Thai Pavilion*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://www.au.edu/th/index.php/about-au/location/item/176-thai-pavilion>
- Thai Red Shirts protest against Thai Government, 2010*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/thai-red-shirts-protest-against-thai-government-2010>
- Thai students overthrow military Thanom regime, 1973*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/thai-students-overthrow-military-thanom-regime-1973>
- Thailand Flag and Description*. (2016). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/flags/countrys/asia/thailand.htm>
- Thailand Law Library by Siam Legal*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://library.siam-legal.com/thai-law/2014-interim-constitution-of-thailand-powers-sections-44-48/>
- Thailand Law Library by Siam Legal*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://library.siam-legal.com/thai-law/2014-interim-constitution-of-thailand-powers-sections-44-48/>

Thailand Marks 40 Years Since the 1976 Thammasat Massacre. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from
http://time.com/4519367/thailand-bangkok-october-6-1976-thammasat-massacre-students-joshua-wong/

Thailand after the opening of AEC (1). (2015). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from
http://www.kriengsak.com/Thailand after the opening of AEC (1)

Thailand profile - timeline. (2016). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-15641745>

Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej dead at 88. (2016). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-37643326>

Thaksin Shinawatr. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from
http://www.soc.go.th/eng/thakin_55.htm

The Democracy Monument – the silent sentinel of freedom. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from
<http://www.tour-bangkok-legacies.com/democracy-monument.html>

Timeline: Thailand's political unrest. (2014). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-02-04/timeline-of-the-lead-up-to-thailands-political-unrest/5234094>

Yoon, I. (2006). Financial Crisis Theories Explaining the 1997 Thai Financial Crisis. *Thammasat Economic Journal*, 24. Retrieved from

http://www.econ.tu.ac.th/oldweb/doc/article/fulltext/218.pdf

Yuwadee. (2016). *หน้าอ่านที่นี่ยะ เลคเชอร์ TIMELINE การเมืองไทยหลังปฏิวัติ 2475.* Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://teen.mthai.com/education/108929.html>

ครุฑ. (n.d). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from <http://student.swu.ac.th/fa471010204/jenawat.htm>

ประวัติการทำรัฐประหารในไทย เกิดขึ้นกี่ครั้งแล้ว มาดูกัน. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2017, from

<https://hilight.kapook.com/view/102528>