

Lobbyist Amsterdam breaks with Thaksin, will pursue justice against the junta on his own

January 3, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis, Robert Amsterdam, Thaksin Lobbying

[Robert Amsterdam Launches Independent Campaign to Hold Thailand's Coup Leaders Accountable](#) – January 2, 2015

...The campaign will be conducted on a pro bono basis, completely independently from any active political figure or party in Thailand.

...However following a military coup last May which toppled the elected government, conditions for human rights have sharply deteriorated, and the engagement between Robert Amsterdam and former Prime Minister Thaksin has concluded...

10 Years Ago: Chang Noi: Chairman Maew's thoughts for 2005

January 4, 2015

Categories: Today in History

10 Years Ago: [Chang Noi: Chairman Maew's thoughts for 2005](#)

The Moody Dictator: No annual nicknames for the cabinet this year

January 4, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Thai Politics



The annual tradition of mocking the cabinet with comical nicknames is not being undertaken this year. The government house press is wary of the cranky PM and his complaints about the critical press. Pravit (above) tweets his own nickname for Prayuth for 2013: “Moody Dictator”

Some examples of this tradition in the past:

2012: [Thai Media Bestows Annual Political Nicknames: Government dubbed ‘Brother First’](#)

2005: [Press bestows annual nicknames on the cabinet: Thaksin Shinawatra “the Wizard with Weak Magic”](#)

2004: [Press corps’ annual nicknames revealed: Commerce Minister Watana Muangsook: “Ua Arthorn In-law”](#)

Cambodia's Smoke-and-Mirrors Democracy

January 10, 2015

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's Smoke-and-Mirrors Democracy](#) – The Daily Beast, January 9, 2015

In his 30 years at the country's helm, Prime Minister Hun Sen has perfected the art of disguising his ruthless regime in the trappings of a free and open society...

Thai-related Doritos “Crash the Super Bowl” Entry

January 11, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

From a press release we received: *I am writing to you about a commercial our team submitted for the annual Crash the Super Bowl contest that Doritos puts together every year. I was born in Thailand and moved to the United States at a young age. Despite growing up here in Los Angeles for most of my life, I have never forgotten where I came from and proudly hold close to my heart the strong family values that I was raised on. I am proud of my family roots and regularly visit Thailand, which I still consider my second home. So I am writing to you to share with you some very exciting news:*

Amongst 5000 entries that were submitted globally. my commercial is one of the 10 finalists for the Crash the Super Bowl contest! They not only announced that we were one of the finalists but they also showed only our commercial in its entirety out of the 10 finalists.

So now that the judges have spoken and chosen the 10. It's up to the viewers to decide which commercial airs on the SuperBowl and wins the million dollars! Therefore, it becomes a popularity contest, so I am reaching out to see if you would be interested in interviewing me and help us spread the word and garner support within the Thai community. It would be great to rally the Thai community to get behind the project since I am the only Thai representing their respective projects.

Enclosed is my [local Santa Monica News Press article which my colleagues and I were interviewed about the process and our accomplishment of our making this commercial.](#)

Thanks so much for your time and consideration! You can see more update, content and information about the other creative producers at the website provided below. In addition, I have attached a press release for your convenience. I look forward to hearing from you to help air my commercial during the Super Bowl!

best,

[Aphichit Richard Jindapornsuk](#)

Aussie FM said journalist “should apologise” to Royal Thai Navy for reprinting Pulitzer Prize winning story

January 12, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Australian journalist Alan Morrison facing jail in Thailand, calls for help from Abbott Government](#) – news.com.au, January 11, 2015

...Mr Morrison claims his sister, Jenny Laddy, was told by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in a meeting in Mt Gambier on December 22, that her brother “should apologise” to the Royal Thai Navy, who were the subject of searing criticism including complicity in human slavery, in the story.

Ms Bishop has denied the charge via a department spokesman.

“In any case the time for apologies is over and I take the word of my sister. I have lost trust in the Australian embassy due to the actions of Foreign Minister and the Department of Foreign Affairs officials in Canberra,” Mr Morrison said...

Stork's party

January 12, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, December 21, 2014

Title: Constitution

Version: Stork's party

*Refers to Aesop's story named 'the Fox and the Stork.'

Almost 400 private schools have closed in the past decade; relatives of founders don't want to run them

January 12, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Private schools on shaky ground](#) – The Nation, January 12, 2015

Recently, he frequently has nightmares

January 12, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Daily News, January 2, 2015

Moon: Recently, he frequently has nightmares.

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Goodbye to the past

January 13, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Thairath, December 31, 2014

Title: Goodbye to the past

Last year was like we walk in the deep and dark cave. We prayed to God who protects our country to guide us in the bright direction. He followed our request by leading our way and subduing all the devils. He, later, blesses us with a happy New Year.

One year ago: Getting ready for new elections

January 13, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Today in History



03-01-57

Manager: [Everyone throws up over Pheu Thai elections](#)

Komchadluek: [If you want to have democracy, go to the ballot box!!](#)

Khaosod: [He puts Rama's pavilion in his mouth](#)

Weekly News Magazines: [All eyes on Pryauth—Did he make a deal with Thaksin?](#)



Komchadluek: [Elections are meant to clean Thaksin](#)

Manager: [The third hand of the Thai police](#)

Thairath: Bloody Democracy.

The Thai situation from the Red Shirt view

January 13, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

There is another appearance of the article on the Thai situation from the Red Shirt view (the elites' only objective is to seize power, civil war is a possibility, Thaksin was a victim of those who hate democracy, etc.).

This time the article has a more moderate title ([Thailand's Military Dictators Extend Hold on Power](#)), rather than the title it had in Forbes ([Thailand's Military Junta Destroys Democracy, Enjoys Exercising Power: Generals Postpone Elections Before Rigging Them](#)).

In its posting on HuffPo, a few words are changed and there are several additions referring to Prayuth as "Mr. Happy."

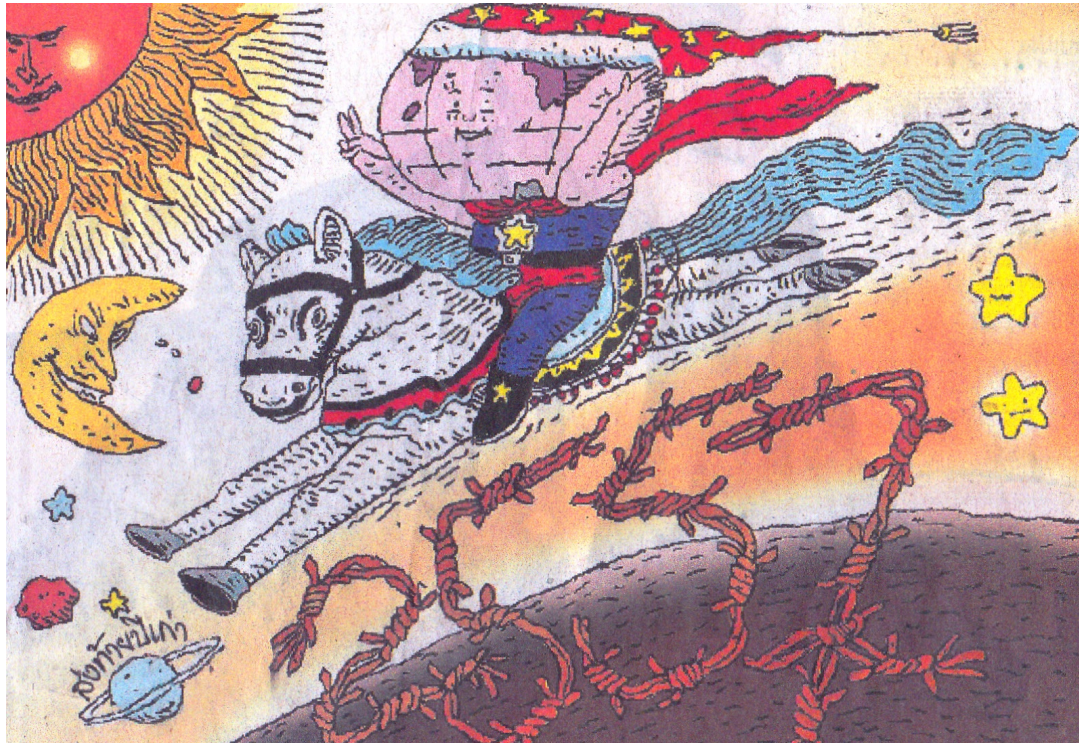
A breakdown of this article, the viewpoint it represents, as well as the actual situation in Thailand, is here: [Forbes: "Thailand's Military Junta Destroys Democracy, Enjoys Exercising Power: Generals Postpone Elections Before Rigging Them"](#)

Also: [Lobbyist Amsterdam breaks with Thaksin, will pursue justice against the junta on his own](#)

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Past the tough year

January 14, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



Matichon 31 Dec 2014

Above Saturn: New Year's Eve

Thai New Year's Cartoons: A rung broke

January 15, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Matichon, December 31, 2014

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Where is the word 'Happy'?

January 16, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



25-12-57

From Manager, December 29, 2014

Left: Where is the word 'Happy'?

Right: Prayuth says he will bring it back for us... but I've not seen it yet.

Caption: Thank you all my fans... See you again on 5 January 2015.

Big budget

January 19, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Ban Muang, January 1, 2015

Girl: Wow... so muscular.

Above Prayuth's muscles: 2015 (BE 2558) Budget of 2.57 trillion

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Ship of state

January 20, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Post Today, December 31, 2014

Left: PM Prayuth

Right: Transport Minister ACM Prajin Juntong

Man hold up a gift: Deputy PM MR Pridiyathorn Devakula

Top: Man holding spy glass: Deputy PM Wissanu Krea-Ngam

Top: Man holding a wrapped up Democracy Monument: Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) Chairman Borwornsak Uwanno

King's New Year's Card

January 21, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons, New Year's Eve



From Bangkok Biz, January 1, 2015

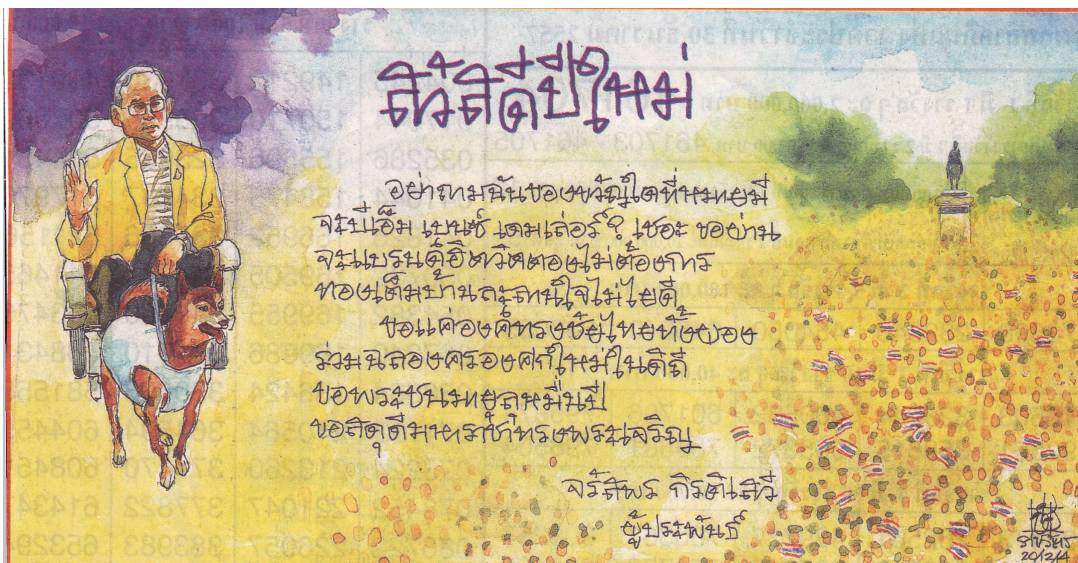
2015 greeting card

Happy New Year

Wishing you perseverance, wisdom and good health.

Wish you all happiness and prosperity.

Mahajanaka.



From Thairath, January 1, 2015

Title: Happy New Year

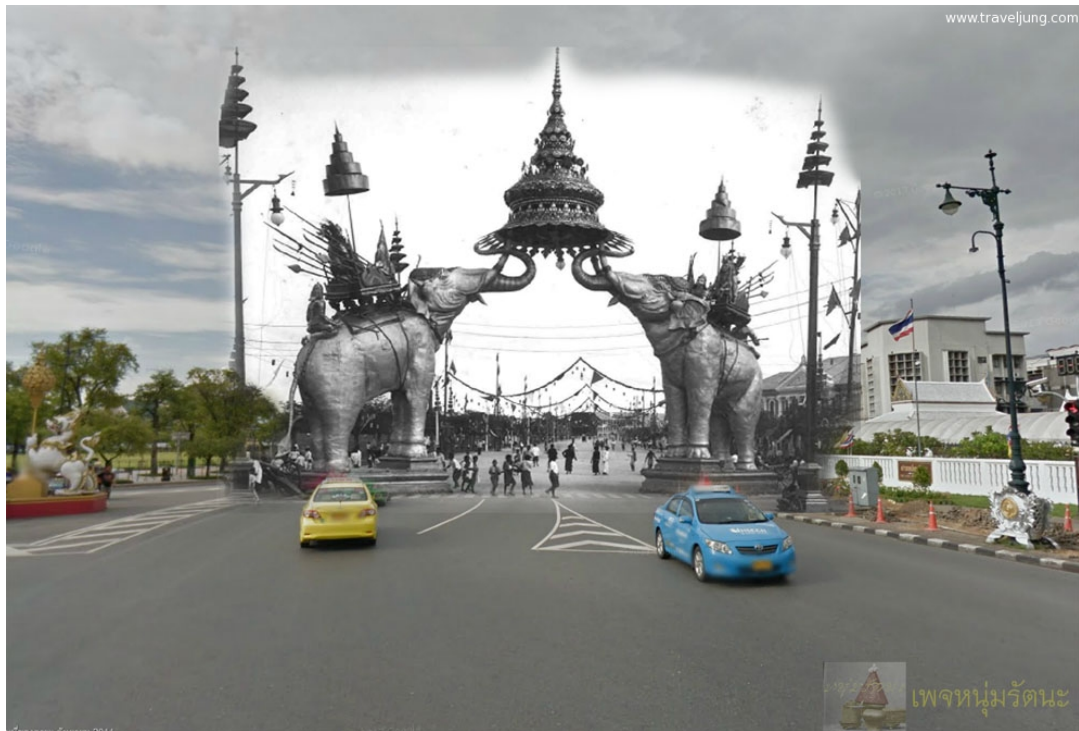
Don't ask me what I want for a present. Is it a BMW, Mercedes-Benz or Daimler car? I don't want any of them. Even if it is a famous brand like Louise Vuitton or gold, I still don't want it. I only wish for our King

to be healthy and stay for thousands of years. Long Live the King.
Composed by Jarusporn Kiratisewee

Then and now in Thailand

January 21, 2015

Categories: Old photos and films



[Then and now in Thailand](#)

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Year of the goat

January 22, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons

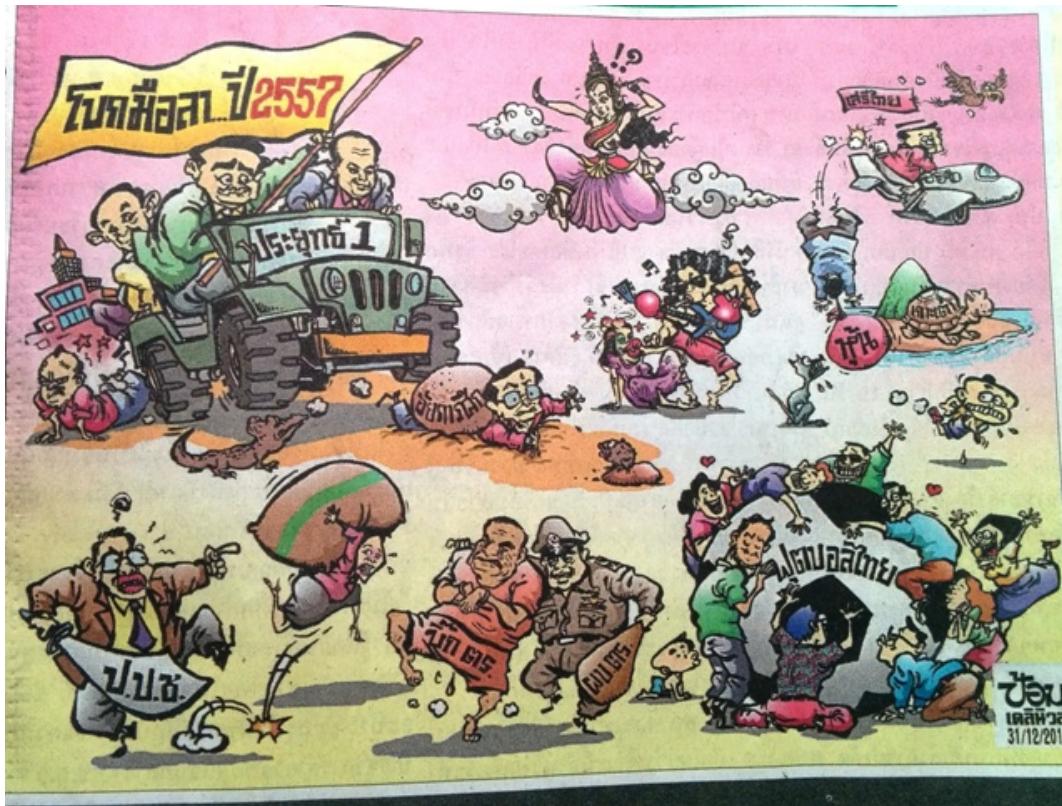


From Bangkok Biz, January 1, 2015

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Goodbye year 2014

January 23, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Daily News, December 31, 2014

Top left: On the flag: Goodbye year 2014

On the truck: Prayuth 1

On rock in front of the jeep: Martial law

Top middle is the angel of the new year. Traditionally, Thais believe that the god and angels will bless people for the New Year. In the cartoon, the angel is dancing to bless the people, but she is surprised with the various situations occurring on earth.

Under here is as boxer beating a woman. This is Thai Rock star Sek Loso. He was sued for hitting his wife.

Top right: A man falling from the plane: stocks

On the plane: Free Thai Organization for Human Rights and Democracy

On the turtle: Koh Tao

Bottom left: On the knife: NACC

Bottom middle: On the prisoner: Big police

On the club: Chief of the Royal police

On the football: Thailand national football team

Executive Notes: The Yingluck Ruling in Context

January 23, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis

A few executive notes for understanding the context of the ruling on Yingluck's impeachment today:

1. The context of what is going on in Thailand is not about the junta creating reconciliation. Instead, it is the junta continually showing resolve to the Thai political world. This is the resolve that says Thaksin is finished and we have the will to resist him for the foreseeable future. This message is being sent with every one of their actions and their "reforms" of the Thai system.
2. The statements from Red Shirt leaders warning of riots and bloodshed are typical empty threats. The Red Shirt movement has never acted on impulse, but always as a political lever at key moments to support Thaksin aspirations. Any Red Shirt unrest would indicate a change from Thaksin's long-standing strategy to do nothing to hinder the junta and thus delay a return to elections.
3. Yingluck, despite being a political unknown before the 2011 elections, turned out to be widely popular as a presidential and non-partisan (for the most part) prime minister. Kept away from cabinet meetings and unable to participate in controversial debates, her constant trips to the provinces as contentious decisions were being made in Bangkok both isolated her from political scuffles and endeared her to the people. She became a potent party figurehead who would be a strong draw in future elections.
4. Removing Yingluck from the next elections creates a quandary for Thaksin as he must find another figurehead to lead the Pheu Thai Party who will not be able to deviate from his control. Choosing anyone with their own political faction risks a drift from his agenda.
5. As much as today's announcement is a test for anyone, it is a test for Thaksin. It indicates his ability to control his Red Shirt supporters. His strategy since the coup has been to do nothing that would give the junta a pretext to further delay elections. Protesting Yingluck's impeachment or any other type of protest or violence in the interim contains no useful end game for Thaksin and the Pheu Thai. (We would expect some symbolic pro-Red, anti-junta protest symbol to emerge at some point to give the world something to focus on—perhaps the mass wearing of Khmer-style scarves or white handkerchiefs in a front shirt pocket.) The simple end-game for the Pheu Thai Party now is to deliver a massive electoral majority at the next election and then use that reality to trump any of the junta's constitutional and legal strictures on elected party rule.

After all these years, we are still in middle of the struggle for the future of Thailand. The present strengths of each side have yet to be fully tested and there are still many battles to be waged.

2Bangkok.com Editor Ron Morris' book, [*The Thai Book: A Field Guide to Thai Political Motivations*](#), is available in the Kindle Store.

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Rice, floods, and tanks

January 26, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Komchadluek, January 1, 2015

On the sign: Rice-pledging scheme

Caption: Happy New Year 2558

Man with microphone: PM Prayuth

Man to the right of Prayuth: Dep. PM Gen. Prawit Wongsuwan

Man to the right of Prawit: Interior Minister Gen. Anupong Paochinda

Democracy Monument sits on a toilet

January 26, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, January 15, 2014

Feces: Phee, Maew , help me!! Poo is now impeached and almost falling out.

Feces (representing Thaksin): I'm almost falling out as well.

On top of Democracy Mounment: Political reform

Caption: Crying out from *Khikam*

11 Years Ago Today: No Bird Flu in Thailand

วันนี้เมื่อ 11 ปีก่อน : ไม่มีไข้หวัดนกในประเทศไทย

January 27, 2015

Categories: Today in History

11 Years Ago Today: [No Bird Flu in Thailand](#)

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Good luck for the year of goat

January 27, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Arun in Matichon, January 1, 2015

Title: Good luck for the year of goat

What people have to do

January 27, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup



Source: News room, NationTV social media graphic

“I’m a puppet of the People’s Democratic Reform Committee.”

Suthep Thaugsuban

14 Jan 2014

“I rather die in the democratic field.”

Yingluck Shinawatra

28 Feb 2014

“Sorry, I have to stage a coup d’état.”

Gen. Prayuth Chan o-cha, Army Chief

22 May 2014

How politics ran Thai Airways into the ground

January 27, 2015

Categories: Airports and Airlines

The problems facing Thai Airways ([Thai Airways International won't go bankrupt: PM](#)) reminded us of the unfortunate fate of the Thai state airline under the Pheu Thai-led government.

The firing of successful CEO Piyasawat and his replacement with a Thaksin political lackey was noted with shock by the airline industry worldwide. Below are some mentions over the years that refer to the troubles the state carrier has encountered.



From Manager, June 12, 2014

On the airplane: Directors of Thai Airways

Captain: I am Captain Prayuth. I'd like to inform you that from now on this flight will stop serving luxurious food... expensive wine... champagne... we'll serve only plain water just enough for you to live on... those who cannot accept it... please walk to the exit at the rear. And our staff will help push you out with their feet to find something else out there to eat.

June 10, 2014: [Junta cancels free flights for THAI board members](#)

September 2, 2013: [Is Thai Airways Sixth President since 2000 already gone?](#)

October 1, 2012: [Financial guru Faber: "Strange" that the government gets to appoint Thaksin cronies to head large companies](#)

June 3, 2012: [Why was the CEO of Thai Airways fired for leading a financial turnaround?](#)

January 25, 2010: [Thai Airways launches cultural overhaul](#)

...Under the premiership of Thaksin Shinawatra from 2001 to 2006, interference in purchases by the board of directors, which is appointed by the government, reached new heights, Piyasvasti said.

"About five years ago, the board became so active that management simply stopped managing the company, and that started a rapid decline in Thai Airways," Piyasvasti said...



Above: From Thairath, May 21, 2012
 The caption reads: Fall from the heavens
 On the chair: Piyasawat

2009: [Thai Airways to sell tickets online, five years after all other airlines did](#)

2009: [Thai govt says national carrier's finances 'alarming'](#)

2009: [Thai Airways seeks to delay delivery of Airbus on cash shortage](#)

And from 2005: [The infamous Suvarnabhumi Airport Runway Cracks Story](#)

US slams junta: Impeachment “politically driven,” Yingluck targeted while democracy interrupted

January 27, 2015
Categories: 2014 Coup

[US: Impeachment ‘politically driven’](#) – The Nation, January 27, 2015

... "I'll be blunt here: When an elected leader is deposed, impeached by the authorities that implemented the coup, and then targeted with criminal charges while basic democratic processes and institutions are interrupted, the international community is left with the impression that these steps could be politically driven" ...

[Reform bars Pheu Thai, says Yingluck](#) – Bangkok Post, January 27, 2015

...Ms Yingluck said she wanted to see Thai democracy return but told Mr Russel that Pheu Thai was being left out of the reform process.

Mr Russel was also told that Pheu Thai did not know how the new charter would look but it suspected it may not be as democratic as hoped.

Mr Russel was quoted as saying that the impartiality of judicial institutions is important for people to have confidence in them...

[Prayuth Shrugs Off ‘Snub’ By US Diplomat](#) – Khaosod, January 27, 2015

... "Why would they come to meet me? They aren't meeting with me because they know how I came to power," explained Gen. Prayuth, who assumed the premiership last year after toppling an elected government in a military coup on 22 May 2014.

"Politics is politics," he said...

Update: [Prayuth blasts US envoy's remarks, calls himself ‘democratic soldier](#)

Update: [US charge d'affaires summoned over call for the lifting of martial law which is considered an interference in the country's internal affairs](#)

Update: [‘What Would America Do?’ Thai Junta Asks US Envoy](#)

Wrong question!

January 28, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, January 14, 2015

Title: Mattayom 5th student was asked to leave the famous TV program because she asked an unsatisfying question to the President of the NRC.

A sign on the left: A puppet who gives a voice for Mr. Tien's team.

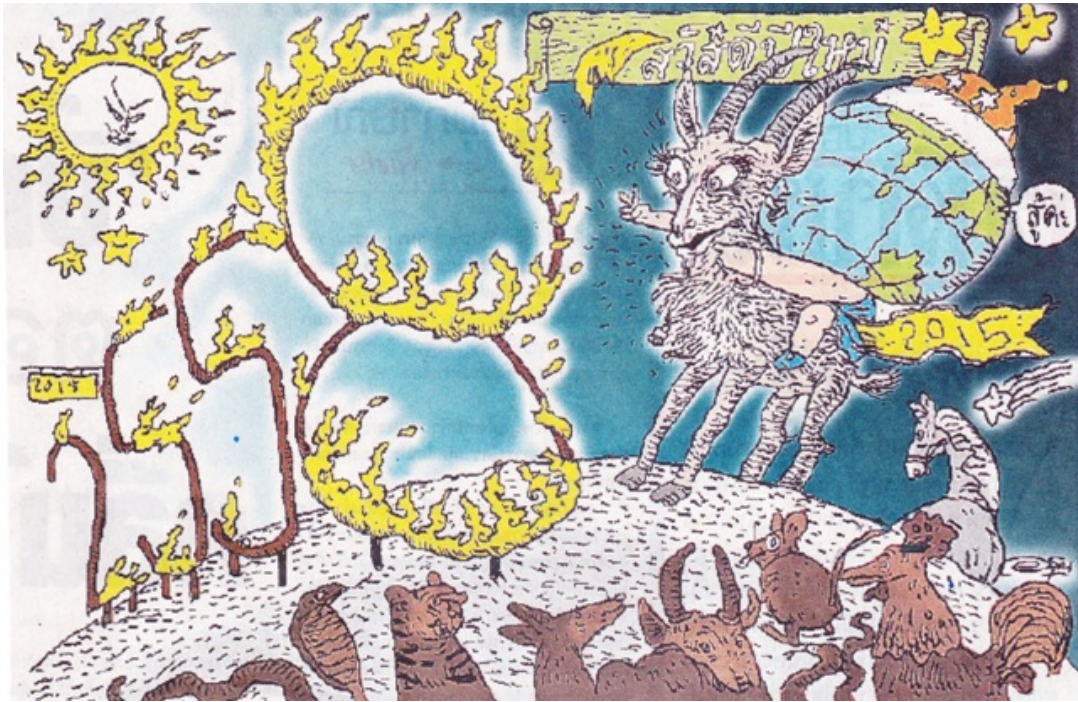
Girl puppet: How do you solve the corruption since... had a power by... which is like...

Man: Cut

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Rings of fire

January 28, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Matichon, January 1, 2015

Title: Happy New Year

The globe is saying: Fighting!

12 Years Ago Today: The burning of the Thai Embassy in Cambodia

วันนี้เมื่อ 12 ปีก่อน : สถานทูตไทยถูกเผาที่กัมพูชา

January 29, 2015

Categories: Today in History



12 Years Ago Today: [The burning of the Thai Embassy in Cambodia](#)

Thai New Year's Cartoons: Year of the cliff

January 29, 2015

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Post Today, January 1, 2015

Hello, year of the goat.

Five Years Ago: Taksin Returns

5 ปีที่แล้ว : ทักษิณกลับมา

January 29, 2015

Categories: Analysis, Today in History



Five Years Ago: [Taksin Returns](#)

Believe in the Royal Thai Police

January 30, 2015

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Police



The billboard reads (a quote from the police chief): We will to create love, faith and peace for the people. —
Pol. Gen. Somyot Phumphanmuang
Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police
Royal Thai Police

U.S. Criticism, the Junta's Reply, and the Fate of Pheu Thai Party

January 31, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis, Anti-Americanism

The U.S. diplomatic initiative in Thailand after the impeachment of former Prime Minister Yingluck raised many questions.

The post-impeachment blast by a U.S. envoy, expressed in the heart of Bangkok, probably did catch the junta by surprise, but taken in the context of events since the coup it hardly constitutes a definitive policy shift by the U.S. government.

The junta's prickly response to the U.S. does not indicate either paranoia or oversensitivity or, as social media often likes to allege, that Prayuth has lost credibility.

Before the impeachment, the U.S. had appeared to largely come to peace with the coup. U.S. policy appeared to be tacit acceptance (or disinterest, depending on your opinion of the Obama administration's foreign policy). The surprise raising of the issues of fairness and elections by the U.S. in the wake of the impeachment points out the piecemeal and after-the-fact U.S. policy towards events in Southeast Asia (along with the now perennial question regarding what the vaunted "pivot towards Asia" really means).

In their response to the U.S., the junta is using the strategy they used after the 2014 coup. Then, U.S. officials spread word that the U.S. might reconsider its 2015 Cobra Gold exercises with the Thai military. The junta took the initiative and pushed back, forcing a quick reversal and assurance that Cobra Gold 2015 was still going to take place. The junta's subsequent courting of China forced the U.S. into a long silence and seeming acquiescence towards the goals of the coup-makers.

Thus, the current public push-back by the junta against the U.S. displays a confidence in dealing with criticism on a public stage and a belief that the U.S. has no option but to back down just as they did after the coup.

Within Thailand there is little sign of public restlessness (the Thai public is not quick to spontaneous political anger in any case) and, most importantly, there is little reason for Thaksin to want any trouble now.

The real story is that Thaksin and Pheu Thai Party have gone underground with little indication about a Yingluck successor or the direction of the party. Both the *Nation* and *Bangkok Post* printed establishment fantasies about what this means on their front pages ([Members in the dark on future of Pheu Thai](#) and [Shinawatra clan faces end of a political era](#)).

These are the perennial interpretations that "Thaksin must be finished." This is the false hope that Thaksin would be abandoned by his allies and was expressed after the 2006 coup, the 2007 political party disbandings, the 2009 and 2010 sieges of Bangkok, and the surprise 2014 coup. However, it is no more true now than it was then (although the present junta *is* attempting a show of resolve this time: [The Yingluck Ruling in Context](#)).

Since it has been clear from the beginning that the junta's overriding goal is to eliminate Thaksin influence, there is no reason for Thaksin or the Pheu Thai to make their move and thus provide a target for the junta's "reforms."

The Thaksin strategy remains not to do anything to give a pretext for the junta to slow new elections and in the meantime hope for an interim economic slump to keep the rural Thaksin voters focused to sweep the next elections. The election victory will then be used once again to dare the military, courts etc. to check them as they edge towards amnesty and their own reforms.

Other than the outlines of the new rules of government and the constitution that will be completely rejected by the Pheu Thai and Red Shirts, the things to watch for are:

- * real junta missteps such as corruption scandals, protecting their own, misuse of government aircraft (this has been a complicating scandal for past juntas)
- * the state of the economy
- * a violent pretext to delay elections and extend military rule
- * or simply a growing confidence in the absence of public rancor that would allow Prayuth to stay in power and thus demonstrate to the political world that Thaksin is finished

The pro-Thaksin political clique's biggest complicating fear is the call to enable Prayuth to remain in power for up to four years to complete his reforms. This idea has been prominently featured in the Thai press, but is yet little written about in the local English-language press or the international press (which cribs its information from local English-language sources anyway).

If the pro-Thaksin political front continues to display cohesion and thus the certainty of sweeping the next elections (however it is rigged by the junta's "reforms"), then the greater the impulse will be to push for continued military rule. Every week stories are floated in the local press that seem to be testing the waters with the public for prolonged military rule.

It is important to note that this was never the military goal in the first place. The roots of the ongoing political conflict are clear. It has nothing to do with Thailand's monarchy or the awakening of the proletariat or old elites hating the poor or not wanting "real" Thaksin-style democracy. It is all about Thaksin's ability as a savvy and ambitious billionaire to amass power in such a way that it stepped on the prerogatives of other existing bases of power to exert their influence.

If continued military rule looks likely, the pro-Thaksin clique will have to make some tough choices. The junta is attempting to create a new political reality that says that Thaksin is finished. Their message is that political power brokers who want to participate in the spoils of government have to abandon Thaksin and play the game with the junta. If a political shift to the junta's new order appears to be happening, or if continued military rule (and election delays) look likely, then the impulse towards flexing the muscle of the Red Shirts will rise.

Red Shirt rallies do not only warn those in power. They warn Thaksin fair-weather political allies that he has the muscle to keep them on his side. Those that transgress will feel the grassroots power that they can assert (just ask Newin Chidchob).

These eventualities are still far away. Thaksin is still betting on new elections and time is his friend as it provides chances for junta missteps and the inevitable erosion of public confidence. He will have to ensure that the international community is lined-up to oppose continued military rule and election delays.

The junta has to entice the Pheu Thai political fence sitters to make a move. However, we may never see an open split with Thaksin. Just as Prayuth's rumored detente with Thaksin in 2013 was always an open question, it was also an attempt to appear to be on all sides and on no side. Pheu Thai allies and faction leaders, particularly Sudarat and Banharn, are masters at this. What we will see and know in public is just the echo of deals emanating from behind-the-scenes.

For now, the political world is in stasis. The junta is confident it can produce the result it wants and Thaksin is certain that intervening events and elections can contravene anything the junta puts in place.

Update: An article testing the waters for a longer Prayuth term in power: [Prayut govt 'may stay on longer'](#)

Also: [Executive Notes: The Yingluck Ruling in Context](#)

2Bangkok.com Editor Ron Morris' book, [The Thai Book: A Field Guide to Thai Political Motivations](#), is available in the Kindle Store.

Two bombs rock Siam Paragon

February 1, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Two homemade bombs explode in front of Siam Paragon](#) – The Nation, February 1, 2015

...Police said the bombs were planned behind a power transformer.

[Transformer bangs rattle Siam Paragon](#) – Bangkok Post, February 1, 2015

...Police spokesman Pol Lt Gen Prawut Thawornsiri later confirmed the transformer explosions, saying no injuries were reported...

Update: [Double Bombs Target High-End BKK Shopping Mall](#) – Khaosod, February 1, 2015

... "The EOD team confirms that the explosions near entrance to Paragon were caused by two improvised explosives that were placed behind a power transformer," Pol Lt Gen Prawut Thawornsiri, assistant to the chief of Royal Thai Police, tweeted late Sunday night.

Police officers initially told the press that the explosion was caused by a malfunctioning electric transformer...

Update: [Two bomb explosions rock Siam Paragon](#) – ThaiPBS, February 2, 2015

Poor Yingluck!

February 2, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



Above, at top right: Yingluck Shinawatra, 28th Prime Minister

[Matichon Apologizes For 'Blasphemous' Cartoon](#) – KhaoSod, January 31, 2015

...Drawn by Arun Watcharasawat, the cartoon presumably intended to portray Yingluck's impeachment by the junta-appointed parliament on 23 January as unjust, similar to the persecution of Jesus Christ at the hands of the Romans...



She died for our sins: Savior Yingluck carrying a “Shinawatra” cross.

China to build a 3,000km, high-speed rail line that will connect Thailand to Southeast Asia

February 2, 2015

Categories: Thai Railroads

[Thailand's railway system shows its age](#) – aljazeera, January 30, 2015

...AJ: But Thailand's current train network hasn't had any investment in years, and needs a complete overhaul, so why not let the Chinese build Thailand a new railway?

Dr. Banomyong: Any train system would be welcome. But we need to be careful, we shouldn't be taking the first gift that someone gives to us. You need to think in terms of connectivity. You need to think in terms of the management. It has to be thought through. If you don't do that you will just end up with a line that will just link with Laos and China and that's it. Is that what we really want? ...

Respect the Buddha and report those who don't

February 3, 2015

Categories: Buddhism, Signs and Billboards



This billboard on the road to town from the international airport reads: (at right) Stop disrespectful acts toward the Buddha by using email to protect Buddhism.

Register at our website www.5000s.org

Pruning the Thaksin tree

February 6, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, January 25, 2015

From the top to the bottom of tree: Yingluck, Somchai, Samak and Thaksin

U.S. military to participate in major exercise in Thailand despite coup

February 8, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[U.S. military to participate in major exercise in Thailand despite coup](#) – Washington Post, February 7, 2015

... “I’ll be blunt here,” Russel said. “When an elected leader is deposed, impeached by the authorities that implemented the coup, and then targeted with criminal charges . . . the international community is left with the impression that these steps could be politically driven.”

...A few days later, the Thai generals gave a more pointed response. Prayuth, the junta chief, met with China’s defense minister in Bangkok, discussed how to expand military cooperation with Beijing, and thanked him for “understanding the political situation in Thailand.”

Making sure another Thaksin relative does not end up as head of Pheu Thai

February 8, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[NACC To Prosecute Former PM For Yellowshirt Crackdown](#) – KhaoSod, February 8, 2015

...The crackdown involved police officers firing tear gas at the protesters and beating them with batons. Two demonstrators were killed in an “explosion” later in the day. Police insist that they did not cause the explosion, and Redshirt activists say the victims were carrying explosives at the time of their deaths...

11 Years Ago: Construction of the Suvarnabhumi Airport

วันนี้เมื่อ 11 ปีก่อน : การก่อสร้างสนามบินสุวรรณภูมิ

February 9, 2015

Categories: Today in History



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

11 Years Ago: [Construction of the Suvarnabhumi Airport](#)

The government listens to the people's voice even in our room.

February 9, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Censorship



From a graphic circulated on social media: The government listens to the people's voice even in our room.

The next PM: Thaksin's son

February 9, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup



Graphic circulated on social media: To the elite: this is the next PM!
(Red color: Next PM)



Graphic circulated on social media: The 30

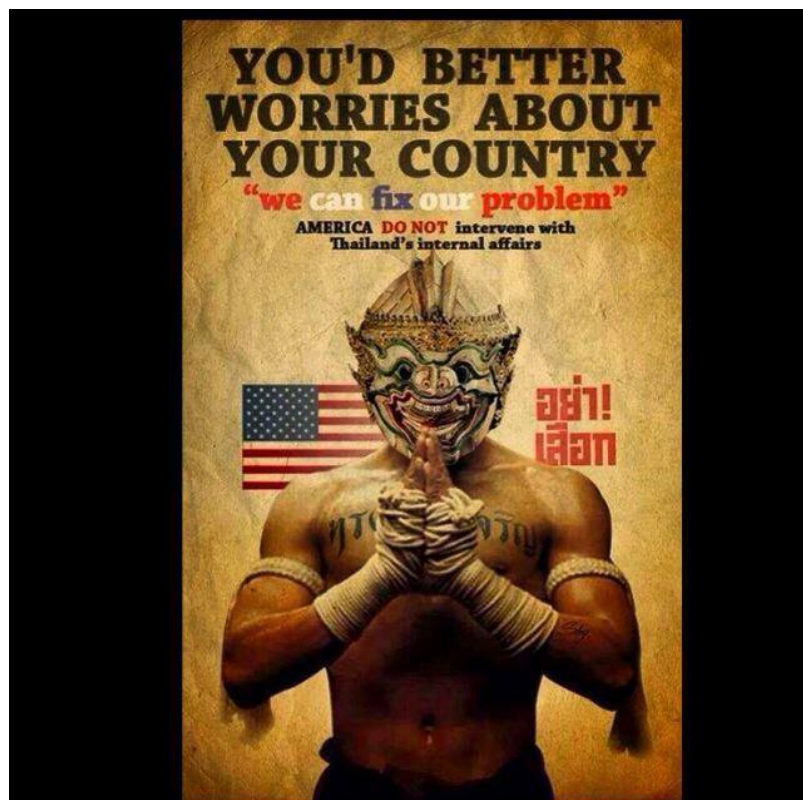
“America do not intervene in Thailand’s internal affairs”

February 10, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Anti-Americanism



From image circulated on social media: Thailand belongs to Thai people.
We thank you, a foreigner, for your concern.
Yet, it would be greatly appreciated if you don't intervene in our country.



From image circulated on social media: At right: Don't intervene.
On the man's body: Long Live the King.

How to stop criticism

February 10, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons

ปรับทัศนคติอย่างเดียวคงไม่พอ...



ต้องใช้ตะกร้อครอบปากด้วย

MS
31/1/68

From Naewna, January 31, 2015

Title: To readjust the attitude may not enough...

Caption: Need to use muzzles too.

Are you ready? Are you ready, Thai people?

February 11, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



26-01-58

From Manager, January 26, 2015

On the desktop: Are you ready? Are you ready, Thai people?

Caption: Warning: If you post something on IG while you're taking drugs, the message you post will be very ridiculous to the people who see it.

Going after Chevron

February 11, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Business

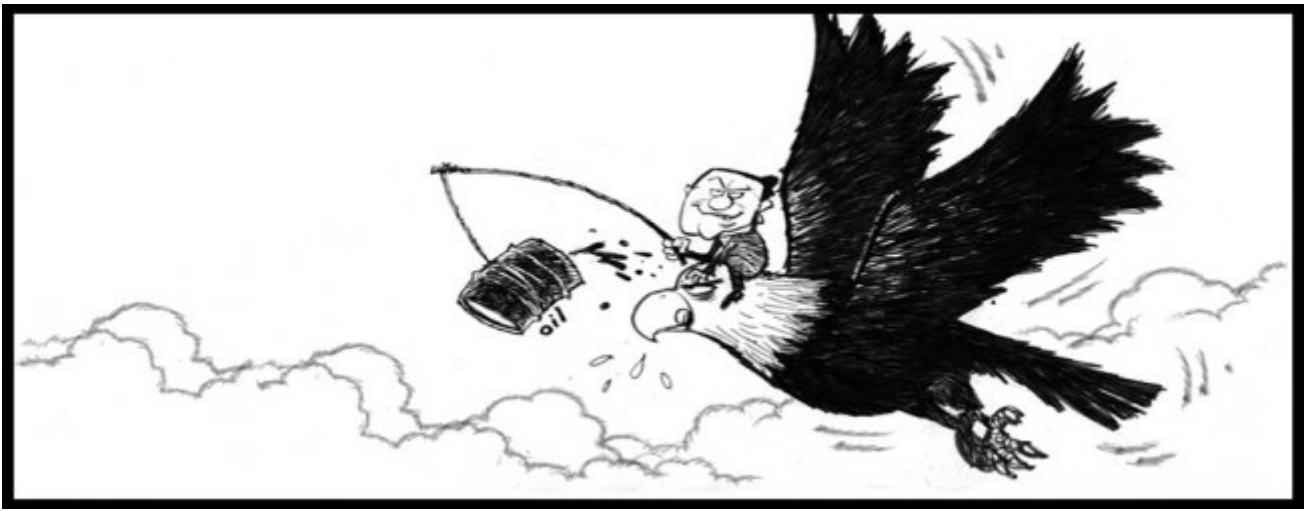


From a graphic circulated on social media: Boycotting U.S. products does not have any effect on the U.S. We should cancel their oil concessions!!!

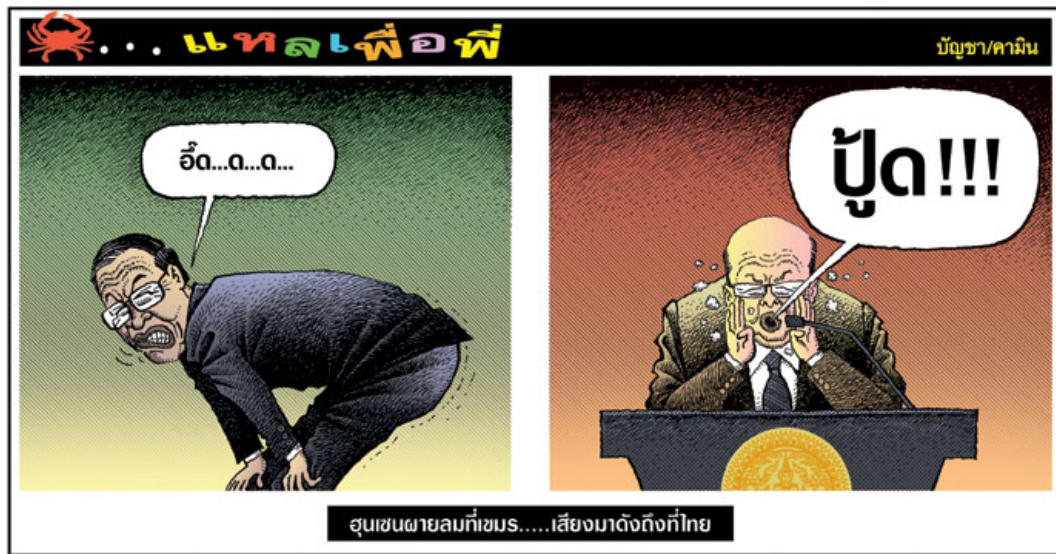


From December 19, 2014

This billboard in the heart of Bangkok reads: Instead of “blaming” others, “we” shall start “doing.” Chevron is proud to be a part of restoring the Pasak Watershed through the King’s philosophy and local wisdom.



Above: From Komchadluek, August 20, 2012



25/01/56

From Manager, January 25, 2013

Left, Hun Sen: Hmmmmmm...

Right, Thai Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul: Pood!!

Caption: Hun Sen farts in Cambodia... but the sound is heard in Thailand.

2Bangkok Editor Ron Morris' book, [The Thai Book: A Field Guide to Thai Political Motivations](#), is available in the Kindle Store.

Thai editorial cartoons with the U.S. Envoy

February 12, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, January 28, 2015

Title: Thai Fight (Thai people are already used to it.)

Under the man: Daniel Russel, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State



From Arun, January 28, 2015

At the top: Daniel Russel, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Title: Sorry for this inconvenience

On the concrete: Martial law

A sign on the stairs: Be careful, cement not dried yet.

China shall not intervene in Thailand's internal affairs

February 12, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Anti-Americanism



From an image circulated on social media: 23 May 2557, Chinese President Xi Jinping calls for all Thai political groups to be patient and compromise with each in order to bring the country back to normalcy soon. Outsiders shall not intervene in Thailand's internal affairs. He believes that Thais can deal with the situation and wish the country to get through this crisis soon.

Caption: The West shall not intervene.

No different: ISIS and the U.S.

February 12, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, January 28, 2015

At top: Naewna's cartoon Poj

Left: ISIS threatens to kill a Japanese hostage unless a female bomber is released..!!

Right: The US threatens to end ties with Thailand unless Thailand releases the bad woman who betrays the country..!!

Caption: Two world terrorists are similarly dangerous.

When will martial law be ended?

February 13, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 28, 2015

Statue of Liberty: When will martial law be ended?

After the Impeachment

February 13, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Anti-Americanism



Above: From a graphic circulated on social media: “If you think you are innocent, you should fight against this charge in the criminal court. I can put you in jail today if I want, but I don’t do it. I let everything be done through democratic ways.” Prayuth Chan-ocha, 27 Jan 58 (2015)



Above: From a graphic circulated on social media: Is the U.S. your dad? Damn it!!



Above: From a graphic circulated on social media: Thai politicians' dignity

Ask them to help with a criminal charge?

Ask them to be exiled in the US?

Former PM Yingluck plays her respects to Mr. Daniel Russel, the US Assistant Secretary of State.

Not slaves

February 13, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Anti-Americanism



From an image circulated on social media:

At top right: Thais are not your slave. We can stand on our own feet.

Caption: This is our land and we are not the U.S.'s slave.

Four years of rule for PM Prayuth?

February 13, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis



Above: From a image circulated on social media (possible from an online newspaper):

Call for Gen. Prayuth to continue being PM for at least four years in order to develop the country to be modernized.

The late-January bombing needs to be viewed in the context of immediate events to understand what parties were likely responsible.

The junta was coming off an embarrassing week. Their claims that all was fine in Thailand, most were happy with their reforms, and that most people did not even realize martial law was in place were suddenly being challenged by someone who could not be called in for an “attitude adjustment.”

Front pages of newspapers further contradicted this by showing a U.S. envoy formally meeting with former PM Yingluck. Articles stated that the envoy planned additional meetings with Red Shirt groups (these were later cancelled under junta pressure).

Claims that Yingluck’s impeachment was simply a non-partisan matter of law and order were later openly contradicted by the U.S. envoy speaking at Chulalongkorn University.

The university is symbolic because its academics and doctors historically provide legitimacy to coup makers through their letters of protest to sitting governments judged to have gone too far in amassing power.

It certainly is possible that a pretext event might be staged at some point to justify continued military control. However, the timing of the bombings, coming as the junta was under pressure and trying to explain itself, means it is highly unlikely they would be staged by the military. This is because the bombing contradicted and embarrassed the junta—especially after nine months of peace.

That the bombing happened in the very heart of urban Bangkok calls into question the perception that the junta really even has control. It suggests that peace exists because Thaksin says so, and he maintains the

ability to strike anywhere. In the context of the U.S. envoy's remarks just days before, the bombing tends to discredit the junta and its claims.

There is every reason for Thaksin to ramp up trouble. Besides giving the junta a black eye and contradicting its claims, the bombing is a warning to the military to hand back power as planned.

In recent weeks in the Thai-language press, it appears that the public is being prepared for at least a four-year tenure for Gen. Prayuth.

Weekly statement by academics, political analysts, and even popular fortune tellers are all letting the public know that, as long as there is peace, and as long as these useful reforms are ongoing, it would be a shame to move too quickly back to elections.

Behind this is the growing realization that the junta has not yet succeeded in breaking up the Thaksin political power base. There are two establishment factions now. One feels a future government can be kept in check by the junta's changes to the political system. The other (and this feeling is growing) contends the military must not hand back power just to see another Thaksin proxy party come to power to repeat the endless bids for amnesty.

As all of this is happening, the ball is in Thaksin's court. He has to do something to demonstrate what could happen if an attempt is made to stall elections. If elections are stalled in favor of a long tenure by Gen. Prayuth, it does no good for Thaksin to continue to play nice on the promise that elections are coming soon.

The occasion of the U.S. envoy's strong words provided the perfect opportunity for a bombing that absolutely contradicted all the junta's claims about the state of the nation and demonstrated they do not have control.

Despite this neither side has reason to fully show their hand. Thaksin knows the junta is trying to break up his political network, so a new Pheu Thai party chief pegged to become PM will be kept under wraps until nearer an election date. Likewise, the junta will continue to float ideas about continued rule while adamantly promising that elections will be held as promised.

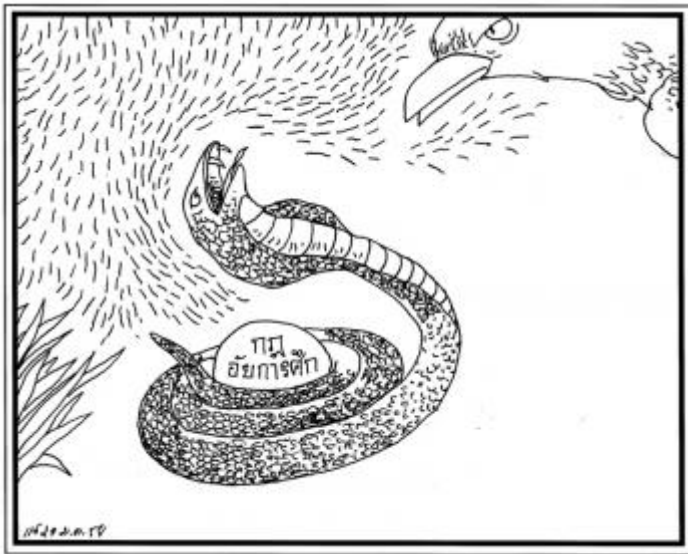
It is likely that another sign of "dissatisfaction" will occur once Yingluck is charged or flees the country. These would be further bomb blasts or possible arson attacks on public buildings in the Northeast. Like the late-January event in Bangkok, they would not be designed to deliberately hurt anyone, but to demonstrate that one party is aggrieved by the unfairness of the situation and still maintains the ability to strike at will.

2Bangkok Editor Ron Morris' book, [*The Thai Book: A Field Guide to Thai Political Motivations*](#), is available in the Kindle Store.

The cobra and the eagle

February 13, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons



From Khaosod, January 31, 2015

On the egg: Martial law

U.S. Meddlers

February 14, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



29-01-58

From Manager, January 28, 2015

Kristie Kenney: I spent many years in Thailand before they called me that, but you were only here for three days...

On sign behind Kenney: Meddler.

On sign held by U.S. envoy Daniel Russel: Meddler.

Caption: When Daniel returns to Washington DC and meets with Kristie.

The U.S. and martial law

February 14, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, January 28, 2015

Top-left: The U.S. increasingly interfering in our country.

Top-right: Which laws do they use to judge whether we should end martial law?

Below-left: a man on the left: There is one I've seen them use in many countries.

A man on the right: Which one?

Below-right: "Intervention law."

Valentine's Day in Thailand – Time to Fret About Teen Sex

February 14, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Above: Valentine's Day marriages, *Daily News*, February 16, 2007

2005: [Obscene Jockey Billboard](#)

2005: [Rap and hip hop to lure young people to Buddhism](#)

2005: [TV show slammed as sex lure to teens](#)

2007: [Thai cops on alert for underage kissing](#)

2008: [No sex on Valentine's, Thai police warn teens](#)

2008: [Call for strict monitoring of 'love nests' for youngsters](#)

2008: [Lust in the library](#)

Three Years Ago: The Botched Iranian Bombing in Bangkok

February 14, 2015

Categories: Today in History



(Source: Thairath, February 16, 2012)

Three Years Ago:

[Explosions heard on Sukhumvit 71](#)

[Israeli analysis: 'Thai blast likely part of larger terror attack'](#)

[Bangkok Blasts in the Foreign Press: The First Articles](#)

[Israeli Minister links Thai blasts to recent Iranian attacks on diplomats](#)

[Bangkok Blasts – First Government Explanations](#)

[Latest Bangkok Blasts News: Iran blames Israel for the bombings](#)



[Thai Headlines on the Bombings – February 16, 2012](#)

[Sticky bomb common to Delhi, Bangkok blasts](#)

[Iranian Suspects partied in Pattaya](#)

What we really care about

February 15, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 29, 2015

Left: Thailand loses 700 billion baht under rice-pledging scheme.

Right: Damn it, I can't use Facebook for half an hour.

Helping hand

February 15, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, February 3, 2015

Title: How come!!

On the sleeve: Thailand

Word being written: Democracy

Meddlesome Americans

February 16, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, February 5, 2015

In the black space at top: Long cartoon story for Monday, by Bancha/Kanin



Obama is taking his guest for a tour of the White House...



Left, at top: They go to the room which displays souvenirs from other countries.

Guest: What're these, Mr. President? It's very interesting.

Obama: Oh... these are the souvenirs we received from our friends around the world.



Left: I instruct my staff that, wherever they go, to ask the host country to write down a messages expressing their feelings toward us in their own language. Then, we put those messages in this room.

Right: The interesting thing is that even though each country has a different language, they all write in the same thing.



Left: What do these messages say, sir?

Right: Obama: Hey... you've came back from Thailand, Mr. Daniel?

Daniel: Yes, Mr. President.



Obama: Did you get any souvenir from Thailand?

Daniel: Yes, Mr. President.



Left: Great. Then hang it on the wall.

Right: It's bigger than other souvenirs we usually receive. The message that they send to us must be written from the bottom of their hearts.



Guest: It's so nice... what does it mean, Sir?

The sign reads: Meddlesome.

Prayuth has been warned

February 16, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, February 16, 2015

Left, Prayuth says: I used to warn Yingluck about the rice-pledging scheme, but she didn't listen.

On the newspaper: NACC impeaches Yingluck over the rice-pledging scheme.

Caption: Today he says like this...

Right, former senator Rosana Tositrakul says: We used to warn PM Prayuth about the petroleum concession, but he didn't listen.

On the newspaper: NACC impeaches Prayuth over allowing foreigners to take over oil concessions.

Caption: Be careful. They may say this in the future.

Online Gestapo

February 16, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 29, 2015

Title: Online Gestapo

On the black man: Cyber law

Phi Nooring: Explore people's privacy

A mouse: Give a terrible scare to people

12 Years Ago: Thaksin's 'War on Drugs' Begins

February 16, 2015

Categories: Analysis, Drugs, The Thaksin Years

[Thailand's 'war on drugs'](#) – Human Rights Watch

...In February 2003, the Thai government, under then Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, launched a 'war on drugs', purportedly aimed at the suppression of drug trafficking and the prevention of drug use. In fact, a major outcome of this policy was arbitrary killings. In the first three months of the campaign there were some 2800 extrajudicial killings...

2012: [Thailand's Drug War: This is not a war on Thais](#)

2012: [Court to hear order on War on Drugs killing](#)

2012: [Police officers sentenced to death in "War on Drugs" killings walk free on bail](#)

2011: [International community urged on impunity of "drug war" killers](#)

2008: [RIGHTS-THAILAND: War on Drugs Massacre – Officials Scot-Free](#)

2008: ['War on Drugs' probe draws a blank](#)

2007: [Injustice for Thaksin? The drug-war dead must weep](#)

2007: [Thaksin's war on drugs kin still wait for justice – Mass killing of tribesmen remains unsolved](#)

2005: [Thaksin war on drugs led to the yaba craze](#)

2003: [Amnesty denounces 'murder spree' in Thai war on drugs](#)

It's possible

February 17, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup



From a graphic circulated on social media: It's possible that "Thaksin" ordered the U.S. to put pressure on Thailand. Dr. Panitan Wattanayagorn, an adviser to Deputy PM, 29 January 2015

Thaksin and the Eagle

February 17, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



30-01-58

From Manager, January 29, 2015

Thaksin: Pretend to play dead... From now on, it's not silly work like you guys used to do... It's global work... understand?

Caption: Put the animal in the right job

Eight Years Ago: Thai Society Horrified Over Sexy Dress

February 18, 2015

Categories: Today in History



Eight Years Ago: [Thai Society Horrified Over Sexy Dress](#)

[The sexy dress – The story that will not die](#)

The Eagle's Message

February 18, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons



From Post Today, January 29, 2015

On the tank: Martial law

Thaksin brother-in-law and former PM Somchai: No reconciliation without amnesty

February 18, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Former PM Somchai says reconciliation must involve amnesty](#) – ThaiPBS, February 18, 2015

...He noted that amnesty should be an integral part of reconciliation as there were people who were imprisoned or punished for political offences. "If reconciliation is to be realized, this (amnesty) has to be accepted," he said.

Former Palang Prachachon party MP Suthin Klangsang, meanwhile, said that the powers-that-be now had no intention whatsoever to restore reconciliation, citing the criminal litigation being employed against former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Mr Somchai...

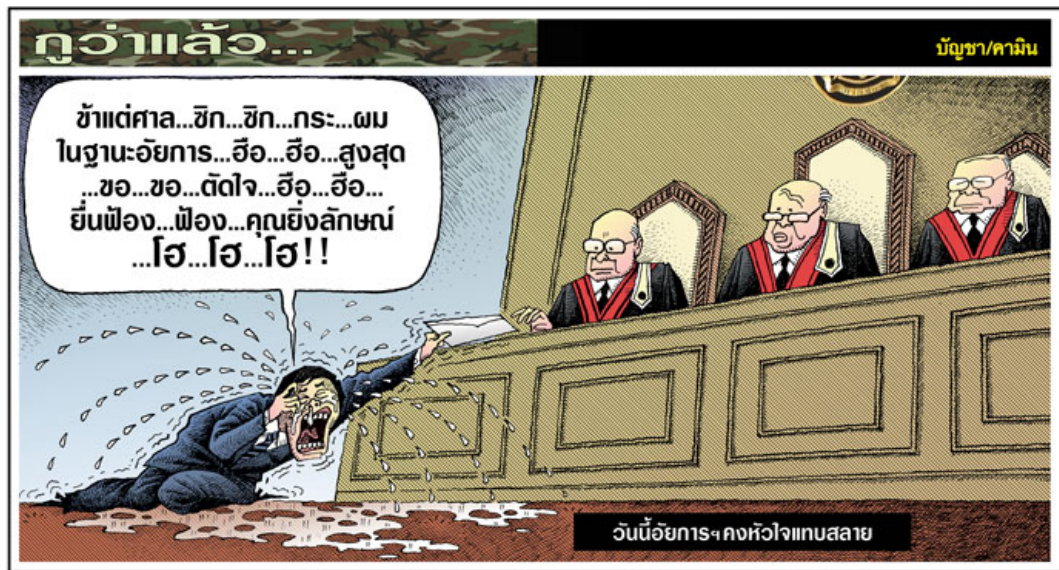
[Thaksin 'ready' for talk, but not Prayut](#) – The Nation, February 17, 2015

...Thaksin, however, has said he is ready for such talks, a Pheu Thai Party source said yesterday. The ex-PM's only condition was that he wanted to talk to someone with the power to make decisions, so that any agreement reached can be put into practice, the source said. "Thaksin has been fooled many times already. Such talks often failed in the past, so he wants people with actual power to talk with him," the source said. Thaksin wants the country to be peaceful and to move forward, the source said...

I don't want to charge Yingluck!

February 18, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, February 18, 2015

Attorney general: Your Honour... zig... zig I'm the prosecutor... hue... hue... and I decided to file charges against Yingluck... ho... ho... ho...

Caption: Today is the saddest day of the prosecutor.

The US warns

February 18, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, January 30, 2015

Uncle Sam says: The US warns Thailand to stop impeachment or lawsuits against the most corrupt family who comes from the election because it is not democratic.

Caption: Who says that there is no place for corrupt people in society?

Letter to the U.S. from Thailand

February 19, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism



From an image circulated on social media:

You have aircraft carriers... while we have our country to protect.

You have a power to occupy... while we have a morality to adhere to.

You support a bad person... while we fight with them without being afraid of them.

You focus on your interests... while we focus on righteousness.

You say a lie to help your friend... while we dare to fight it.

You use democracy as your excuse... while we will blow a whistle loudly.

Stop supporting people who are corrupt... stop insulting.

"Stop supporting Thaksin's regime or our friendship will end."

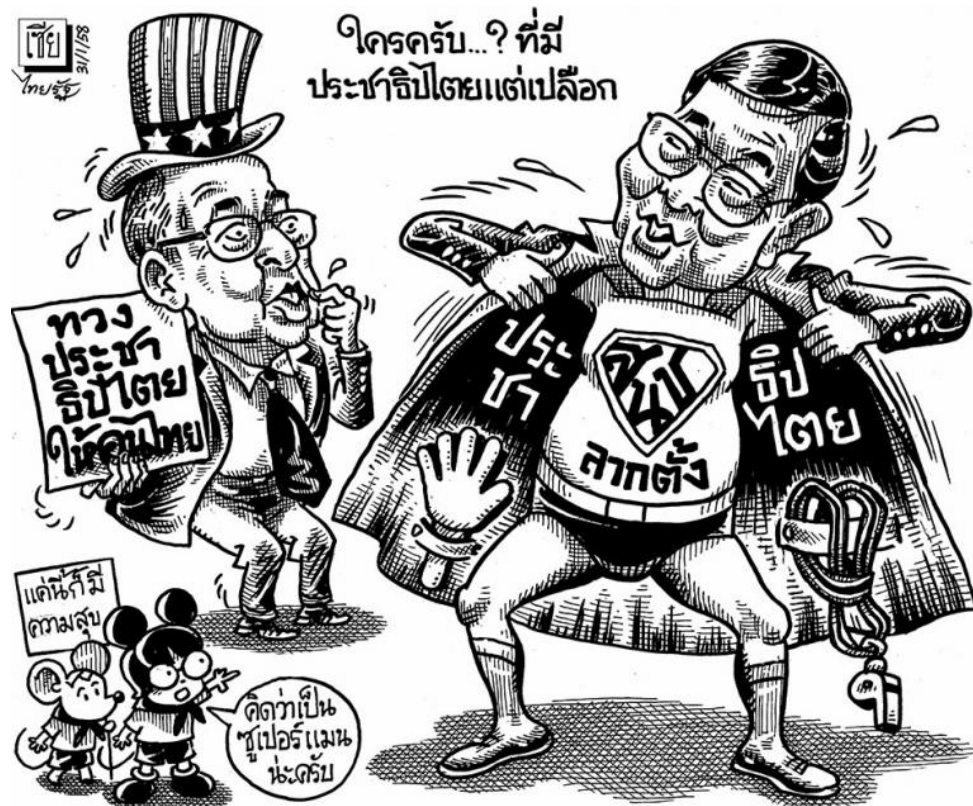
Love you, Thailand

28 Jan 2558 (2015)

Which is the fake democracy?

February 19, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 31, 2015

Title: Which is the fake democracy?

Paper held by U.S. envoy Russel at left: Call for the democracy for Thai people

On the coat: Democracy

On the logo on his chest: NLA

On the shirt: Appointed

Phi Nooring: He thinks he's a superman.

A mouse: This is his happiness.

Hung out to dry

February 19, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 25, 2015

Words read: Rice-pledging scheme.

11 Years Ago Today: Bangkok Post editor fired under political pressure

February 20, 2015

Categories: Today in History

11 Years Ago Today: [Bangkok Post editor fired under political pressure](#)

10 Years Ago: Thaksin victory puts Thai media in jeopardy

February 20, 2015

Categories: Today in History

10 Years Ago: [Thaksin victory puts Thai media in jeopardy](#).

Democracy or Corruption?

February 20, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Anti-Americanism



From a graphic circulated on social media: Left: “We don’t take sides, but we would like to see Thailand return to democracy.” W. Patrick Murphy, the US charge d’ affaires of the US Embassy in Thailand

Right: Democracy?

Caption: Only when the US stops calling corruption “democracy”, then the problem will end.

World newspapers insist on return to democracy now

February 20, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

This was another one of those weeks when several newspapers, almost in unison, published editorials claiming the junta is losing its grasp on power and then demanding that democracy immediately be restored.

[Thailand's ineffective rule by force](#) – Washington Post, February 19, 2015

...Junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha lamely protests that, unlike the military-backed regime of Egypt, his has not killed anyone. But given his reactionary plan to permanently hobble democracy, even that dubious distinction may not endure much longer.

The army is attempting to accomplish something it has failed at twice before: a political system that eliminates the influence of the Shinawatra family, which has won every election in Thailand since 2001...

...Mr. Prayuth should get the message that in the absence of meaningful steps, starting with the lifting of martial law, the Thai military will lose its relationship with the United States, including future exercises. If the Obama administration is unwilling to act, Congress should step in.

[Liberty Dies As Thailand's Military Monopolizes Power: Junta Dispenses Repression Instead Of Happiness](#)

– Forbes, February 18, 2015

...“We are building democracy everyday” proclaimed dictator Chan-ocha. No, he isn't. Instead, “Mr. Happy” and his cronies are bringing smiles to self-interested elites, not the people.

[The Guardian view on military rule in Thailand](#) – The Guardian, February 19, 2015

...The attempt to fix the country's political future should be abandoned. A return to democratic rule is overdue.

[Democracy, Thai-Style](#) – bostonreview.net, February 19, 2015

How Line is turning Instagram into an ecommerce app in Thailand

February 20, 2015

Categories: Technology



[How Line is turning Instagram into an ecommerce app in Thailand](#) – techinasia, February 20, 2015

...It works like this: a merchant creates an Instagram account and posts photos of their wares. Merchants selling women's fashion seem to be the most common, but I did notice other product categories among Thai shoppers. A merchant on Instagram usually mentions what he or she sells in the bio and includes a Line ID. Consumers that stumble across the Instagram page and like what they see use Line to contact the merchant and ultimately make an online transaction. By using Line, merchants are able to engage directly with each prospective customer and build trust. By way of this interaction over Line, the merchant and the customer complete the transaction, agreeing on the product, any potential discounts, and even payment terms. Consumers in Thailand prefer this method because it gives them a direct contact with a live person, not an anonymous online shopping cart...

Seven Years Ago: Samak Denies the 1976 Massacre

February 21, 2015

Categories: Analysis, October, 1976, Today in History



Above, the turmoil of Samak as PM: from Komchadluek, September 5, 2008

The headlines read: Samak turns the game to avoid Army resistance – Seizing back power to prevent Anupong from staging coup – Orders forces to suppress the people – No resignation, no parliament dissolution – “Tej resignation is due to his wife” – Move on public referendum

It was seven years ago this month that the Thai political world was reeling over the appointment of Samak Sundaravej as prime minister of the Thaksin-directed People Power Party.

As one of the key villains of the right-wing backlash against left-wing students in the 1970s, it was a shock to find this person suddenly at the head of government. However, as a politician with no discernible political faction nor backing of any kind, he was the perfect candidate to serve as a PM placeholder who would only be loyal to Thaksin.

The People Power Party was no Pheu Thai Party—it had no promises other than a mantra that the country was in crisis and no governing could be done until the constitution was amended. Cabinet meetings presided over little governing except to approve government honors and promotions of officials.

After his appointment as prime minister, Samak was hammered by the press over the details of his involvement in the 1976 right-wing campaign that resulted in a raid of Thammasat University and a massacre of protesting students. Samak tried to downplay the events to the international press and bully local reporters who attempted to confront him (much in the same way Chalerm does).

Halfway through the People Power Party government era in 2008, Samak did attempt to double-cross Thaksin. He built a coalition of political figures who wanted the government to govern rather than wait until after the constitution was amended when a new government, presumably headed by a rehabilitated Thaksin, would mean everyone would be that much further down the political ladder.

Samak failed in this attempt and was later disqualified by the courts for a conflict of interest over his hosting of a cooking show and falsifying documents related to his employment on the show. He died a little more than a year later of liver cancer.

From 2007: [Samak spits venom as Thaksin's nominee](#)

From 2007: [30,000 people walk out on Samak speech](#)

From 2008: [Will Sutham call Samak over Oct 6 truth?](#)

From 2008: [Samak's atonement](#)

From 2008: [The upcoming Samak government](#)

From 2008: [Samak becomes pale when shown his picture taken with Prapass](#)

From 2008: [Don't twist the history of the 1976 October 6 Massacre!](#)

From 2008: [STUDENT MASSACRE: Historians reject PM's 'distortions'](#)

From 2008: [The Prime Minister's problems](#)

From 2008: [Samak, don't be such a @&&%# coward](#)

From 2008: [Angry Reaction to Samak's 'Suu Kyi is a Tool' Remark](#)

More: [Thammasat University Massacre](#)

And from 2003: [Samak: Just shoot bothersome jumbos](#)



MORE: [All about Samak: photos, cartoons and news items](#)

71.2 percent do not think Thailand is ready for an election

February 22, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Thailand not ready for election yet: survey](#) – The Nation, February 22, 2015

The Statue of Liberty and Thailand

February 23, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons



From Komchadluek, February 2, 2015

Soldier: I would like to invite you to participate in attitude readjustment.



From Komchadluek, January 28, 2015

Statue of Liberty: When will you end martial law?



From Komchadluek, February 2, 2015

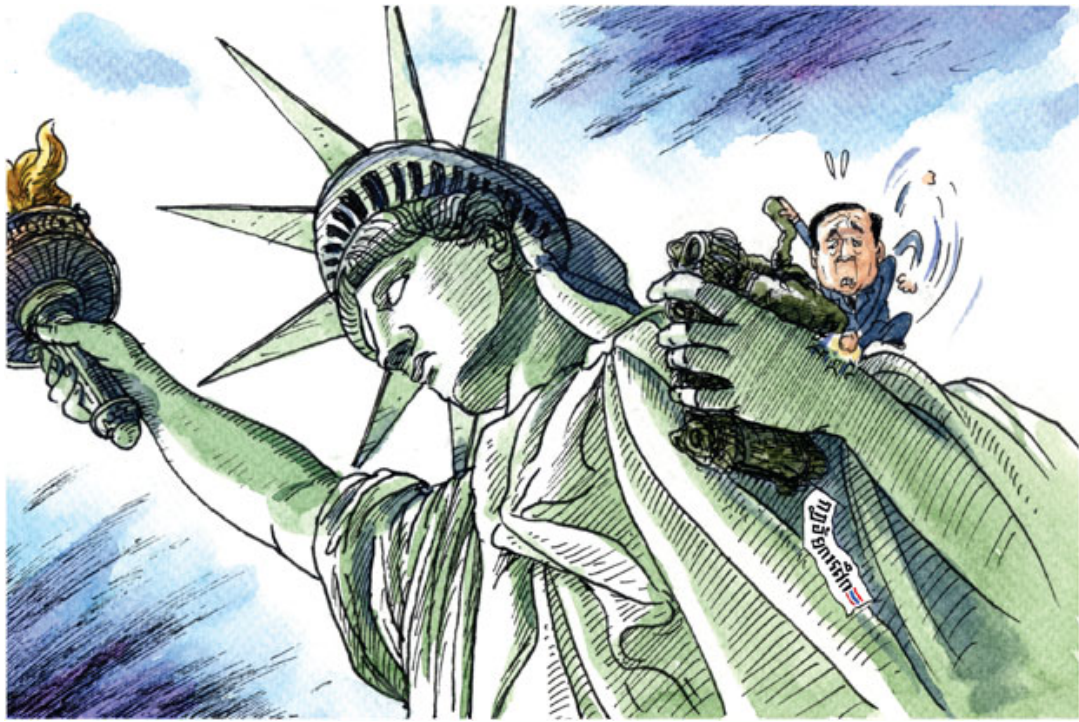
Thai giant: Frankly speaking, I don't like what you have done to me.



From a graphic circulated on social media: “Martial law” is implemented in Thailand to protect Thai people from riots. It’s not implemented in the U.S., so stop interfering!!! Go back to your country to deal with racism and pay your debt to China, “asshole.”



From Nop, January 30, 2015



From Post Today, February 1, 2015
On the banner: Martial law

Why are they killing Chatuchak Market?

February 23, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Analysis

Chatuchak Market has a relatively short history. Bangkok's weekend market was originally located at Sanam Luang until the 1980s when vendors were gradually forced to relocate to the new location at present day Chatuchak Market.

The new location is on land expropriated from farmers for a new, modern Bangkok train terminal (replacing Hualampong). However, the land somehow ended up in commercial hands as the site of commercial developments like Central Lat Prae and Chatuchak Market. The enduring uproar of expropriated land ending up benefiting wealthy families is reflected in the 1997 constitution when the use of expropriated land for commercial purposes was prohibited (this immediately generated more controversy when the subway authority attempted to develop their massive expropriations around Rama 9 Road into commercial buildings).

Governments or agencies that can wrest valuable property from its intended use can reward cronies with the development. Chatuchak Market has long been seen as a prime candidate for this sort of scheme. During the Chavalit Yongchaiyudh government, PM Chavalit pushed a "preservation" of the beloved market that would have seen it all redeveloped into condominiums.

In recent years, the tussle over the site between the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA, Bangkok's city hall) and the State Railway of Thailand (SRT), along with the Central Lat Prae land, is part of this enduring dream to somehow find a way to close the market and redevelop it.

The unusual point of the article below—that the Chatuchak Market landlord (SRT) would rather that shops sit idle because rents are too high rather than have them rented out at market rates—indicates the overall goal of killing the market.

SRT has one goal with Chatuchak Market—manage it in a way that kills its viability. Then they can justify the redevelopment of the area into a commercial/residential complex. Such redevelopment has already been eating at the edges of the market with multistory buildings replacing traditional shops.

[Chatuchak vendors sold short in struggle for survival](#) – Bangkok Post, February 22, 2015

...But, some 30 years after he first set foot inside the market, he's scared members of the younger generation will not be afforded the same possibilities.

"Walk into the middle zone of Chatuchak and you'll see plenty of shops closing down," he told Spectrum.

"In the next couple of years, we could see the end of Chatuchak as we know it. It is a shame..."

Why the country can't move forward

February 24, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, January 31, 2015

Title: Because we have the politicians like this... That is why the country can't move forward!!!

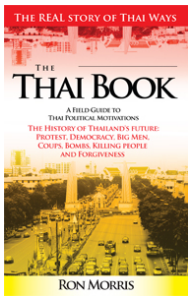
Above the soldier: NCPO

Above the feet (representing politicians) from left to right: Corrupt, revolt, protest, agitate and slave

Big Men Always Go Too Far

February 24, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis, Thai Politics



Download a free chapter from *The Thai Book, A Field Guide to Thai Political Motivations*: [“Big Men Always Go Too Far”](#) (pdf)

[The Thai Book: A Field Guide to Thai Political Motivations](#) is available in the Kindle Store.

Uncle Sam and Yingluck

February 25, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, February 4, 2015

Uncle Sam: Listen, now the world is besieging you. Please return democracy to us.

Sign over the house: Thailand

Stop using drugs and go back home because your family is waiting for you

February 25, 2015

Categories: Drugs, Signs and Billboards



The billboard reads: Go back, son... “miss you”

On blue band at the bottom: Bangkok is safe from drugs, The safe city, Love Bangkok, join hand to build Bangkok, Mr. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, Bangkok Governor

You're so mean, dictator

February 26, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek February 111, 2015

Yingluck: What!! I just want to go to Hong Kong for rice porridge, not going to China to watch the Olympic Games.

Words on the right: You're so mean, dictator

Follow the old charter or not?

February 26, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, February 9, 2015

Left: Man 1: Why can't the NLA remove two former Senate and House speakers and one former PM?

Man 2: I'm a lawyer. I insist the rights under the Constitution 50 are already terminated.

Right: Soldier: Now, there is the order not to allow people to gather to meet with the suspect who allegedly made a fake royal statement.

A fat man: I'm a lawyer. I insist on my rights under the Constitution 50 .

Same as ISIS

February 26, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, February 4, 2015

Left: Your movements that are trying to intervene in Thailand's internal affair shows that you are in the same group with ISIS.

Middle: What make you think that I'm the same group with the ISIS?

Right: Because your behaviors are “I-idiot” and “S-stupid.”

Another U.S.-ISIS editorial cartoon

America, you see... we're happy

February 27, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



Title: America, you see... we're happy.

A tie of the man on the left: NLA

A tie of the man on the right: NRC

On the box lid: Martial law

On the box: Bureaucrat-democracy

Phi Nooring: The way to seek happiness

A mouse: Quickly return the democracy to us.

Shock ruling: Secured real estate leases to allow foreigners a 90-year lease in Thailand are not valid

February 27, 2015

Categories: Property and Development

[Phuket court rules 'secured' or 'collective' leases are void](#) – thephuketnews.com, February 27, 2015

...The Phuket News' legal correspondent, Jerrold Kippen, has revealed that not only has the structure been ruled invalid but the courts' decision may mean that the original underlying 30-year lease, even if registered with the Land Office, is now void – it never existed, leaving the buyer with two handfuls of nothing...

More scapegoats

February 28, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Post Today, February 2, 2015

Goat: Damn it!! We have run now.

Military order displaces police again: Senior police officers moved after Army leads raids on gambling dens

February 28, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Senior police officers moved after Army leads raids on gambling dens](#) – The Nation, February 28, 2015

...Speaking later, Somyot said the Army units were taking active roles in anti-vice operations because they were authorised to initiate raids under martial law. He said the Army raids were not considered interference in police duties and many raids were joint operations with police taking part.

A team of 50 soldiers and 10 local police raided a network of notorious gambling dens in Bangkok's Tao Poon area yesterday afternoon, and seized a large number of handguns, betting equipment and narcotics.

...The raids were initially resisted by local residents, who allegedly act as lookouts, as has been reported regularly in news reports over the years. They accused the officials of damaging private property and causing a disturbance after officials hammered down many walls and cut off padlocks, and found the contraband items...

This is the famous Tao Poon gambling syndicate that thoroughly owns the police in the area and has protection from both residents and elected officials.

10 years ago they were shutting them down also: [Number's up for infamous den](#)

Thailand tourism video Love En Route criticised for featuring Instagram stalker

February 28, 2015

Categories: Tourism

[Thailand tourism video Love En Route criticised for featuring Instagram stalker](#) – Independent, February 28, 2015

...Jennifer Perry, CEO of the Digital-Trust abuse charity, has accused the video's makers of being naive in their portrayal of what is effectively stalking.

She told The Independent that there are many apps which are geared around people meeting each other, but she warned that like the Love En Route film makers, the creators don't think like an abuser. They therefore do not realise that they are feeding into a pervading view that it's OK to pursue someone even if they say no.

...She added that the video reflects a naive attitude towards relationships, and it may have had a different ending if it reflected reality.

"It's a naive view of the world and a very naive view of women that suggests we want to be pursued, and that as long as you're persistent and charming you can get them to change your mind and you will end up with her as a prize. We see that in film after film. It's a common thing. That's a dangerous myth," she said.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand has not yet responded to a request for a comment.