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# Bureaucratic Polity (1947-1973)

Cold War Politics, Technocracy,  
and Military Rule

# 1940 (2490) Coup d'état

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- Coup by the National Military Council, Field Marshal Pibul Songgram (Phibun) former prime minister lead the coup to over throw the civilian constitutional elected government.
- Khuang aphaiwong was appointed as Prime minister instead due to reputation of Pibul in the international community.



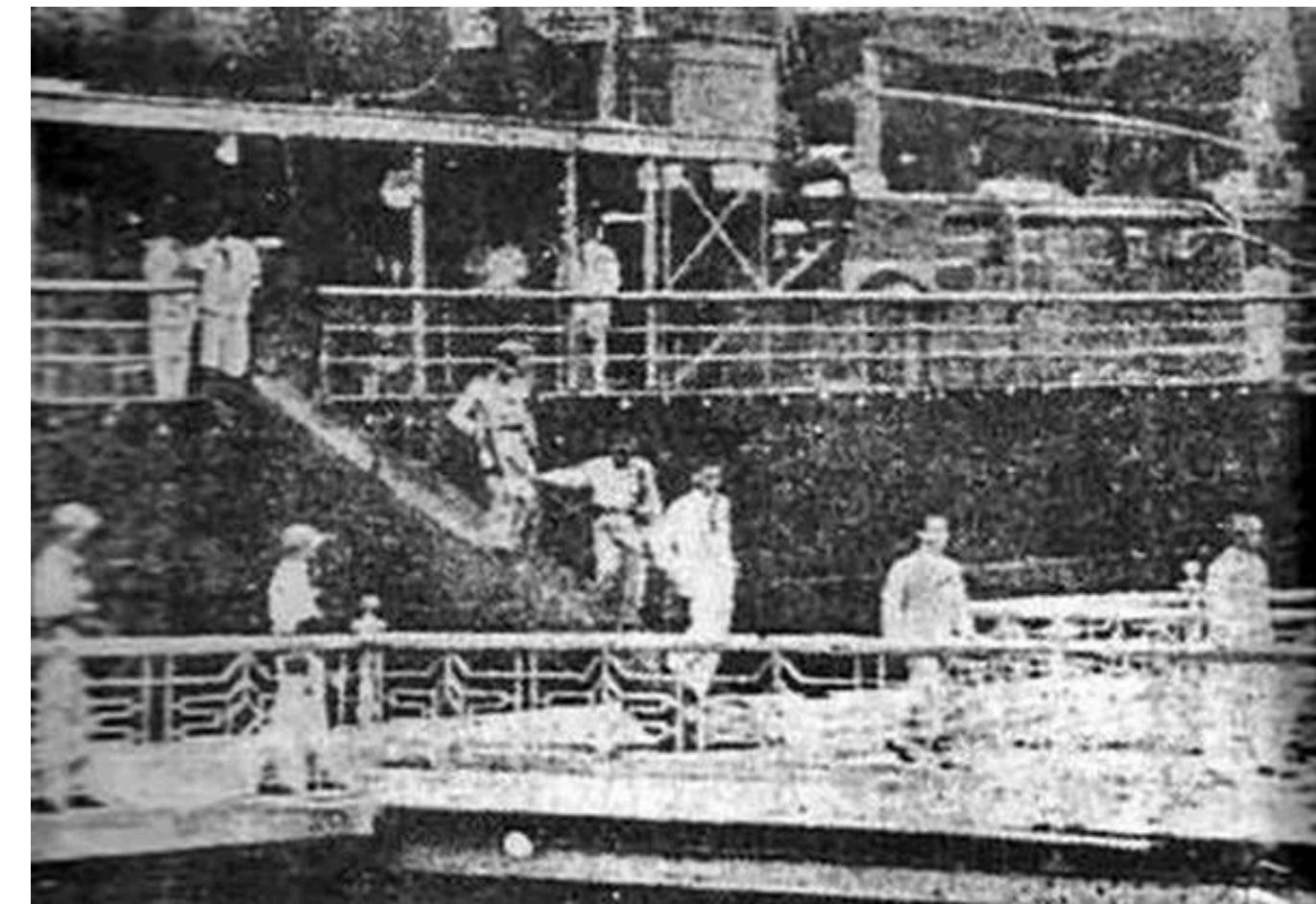
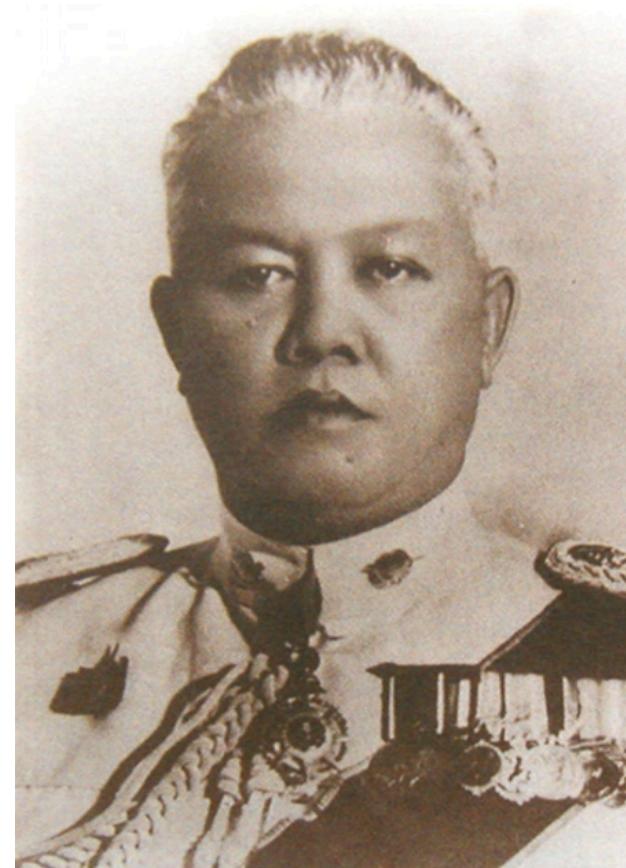
## 1941 (2491) Silent Coup

- Khuang was pressured to resigned from his position within 24 hr
- Field Marshal Pibul Songram (Phibun) then become the next Prime Minister.
- military nationalist ideology—"believe in the leader," emphasizing patriotism and military bravery



# External Threat: Pridi Fraction

- 1949 (2492) Wang Luang Rebellions
- 1951 (2494) Manhattan Reblions



# Internal Threat

- Phin-Phao Political Fraction
- Soi RachaKru (กลุ่มซอยราชครุ)

# Internal Threat

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- he was military officer who serve in the war with no prior political position.
  - The commander of 1st infantry regimen in the 1st division
  - Rising star - suppressing the rebels, earn trust from Phibun
- a "triumvirate politics"
- Phibun struggle to balance the power, while Phin-Phao hold the reins and Sarit is rising up.

# 1951 (2494) another silent coup

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- Phibun coup Phibun
- Parliament is dissolved, the 1949 constitution is nullified, and the 1932 constitution is reimposed.
- the 1949 constitution was being an obstacle to his ruling - claimed by P.
- Threat of Communism

# 1957: "The Dirty Election"

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- Seri Manangkasila Party of Phibun won the election. BUT FULL OF ELECTORAL FRAUD
- Public discontent with the rigged election grew. P. declared a state of emergency and appointed Sarit as supreme military commander



13 September: Sarit demand Phibun to resign

15 September: People marched to support Sarit

# Sarit's Coup

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- Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat overthrown Phibun and was appointed as 'Guardian of the Capital' by the King
- Mark the end of Khana Ratsadon, Phibun flee the country.
- Pote Sarasin was chosen to become the prime minister due to his relationship with the US



## Pote Sarain's Government

# October 20, 1958 (2501): Sarit's second coup

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- He calls it a "revolution" (ปฏิวัติ) to signify a complete break from the 1932 system. It was a new, more "Thai-style" system of authoritarianism and military rule.
- He emphasized paternalistic leadership, portraying himself as the "head of a family" (หัวหน้าครอบครัว), similar to a "Phokhun" (พ่อขุน), a father-like ruler.
- He defined Thai society as having three tiers: The State/Government (รัฐ/รัฐบาล), the Bureaucracy(ข้าราชการ), and the People (ประชาชน).



# The Revolution (?)

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- Economic Shift - Age of development
  - Farmer? traditional to market society
  - Urbanisation - migration
- Bureaucratic Expansion, rise of the technocrat
  - Mafia relationship: middle person?
- Unity in culture: education, religion, to be Thai



## 1963 (2506): Death of Sarit

## 1963 (2506): Thamom and military absolutism



- Sarit's successor, Thamom Kittikachorn rised to the position (again). THE LEGACY continue
- Military absolutism
- 25III: new constitution & election but just for show

## 1971 (2514): Self Coup

- Delay in constitutional drafting
- Igniting the fire of movement

# 1973 (2516): The Uprising

- October 6 - 9 students were forced out of university and 11 students along with activist were arrested.
- October 9 - Students gather for release and ask for constitution
- October 10-11 - protest grow with number reaching 50,000
- October 13 - government agree to release. Protest exceed 400,000.
- October 14 - police attempt to dissolve lead to violence interaction
  - Thanom, Praphas flee country
- October 15 - King appointed



Sanya Thammasak as the new Prime minister

# 1976 (2519): Right wing Massacre the left (ขวาพิฆาตซ้าย)

- August - Praphas test the water and try to come back to Thailand. Student protest.
- September - Thanom also tried to come back by becoming a monk. Student protest again.
  - right wing heavy media exposure to the public view against the students
- September - Activist was murdered and hanged while advocate.
- October - Thammasat student protest at university and role play that trigger that massacre.
- 6 october - Thammasat Massacre