

Thai Revolution: Pridi Banomyong

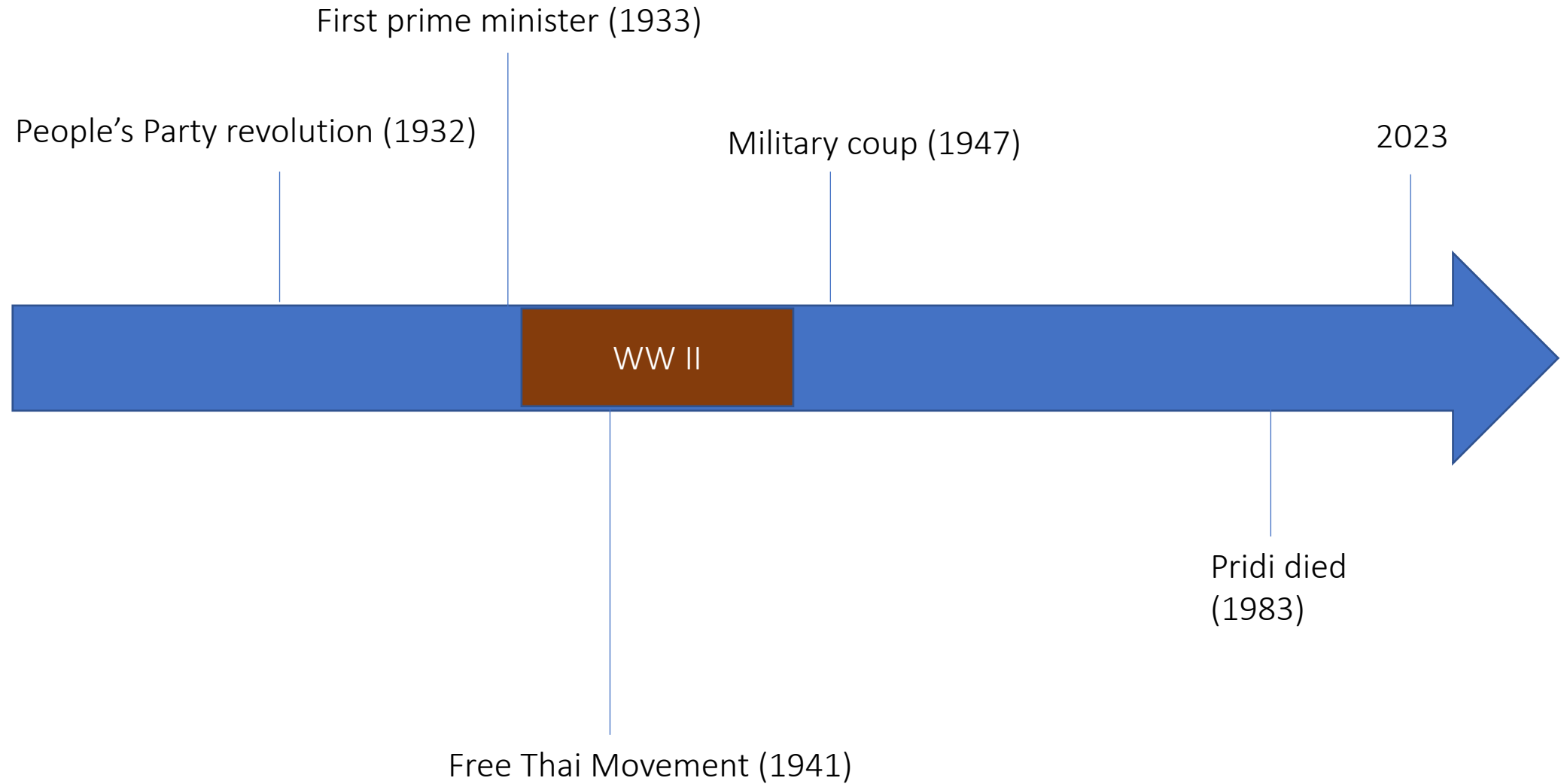
Aukkawut Ammartayakun

Pridi Banomyong (1900-1983)



Source: BBC

Rough Timeline



Background

- Thailand was in an *absolute* monarchy system since the beginning of Thai history.
- Many (elite) people study abroad.
 - Want to replace the *absolute* monarchy with a *constitutional* monarchy.
 - Pridi assembled a group of people for this.
- Pridi (and his group) went back to Thailand after graduation.
- The revolution lasted **one day**. *Arguably.*

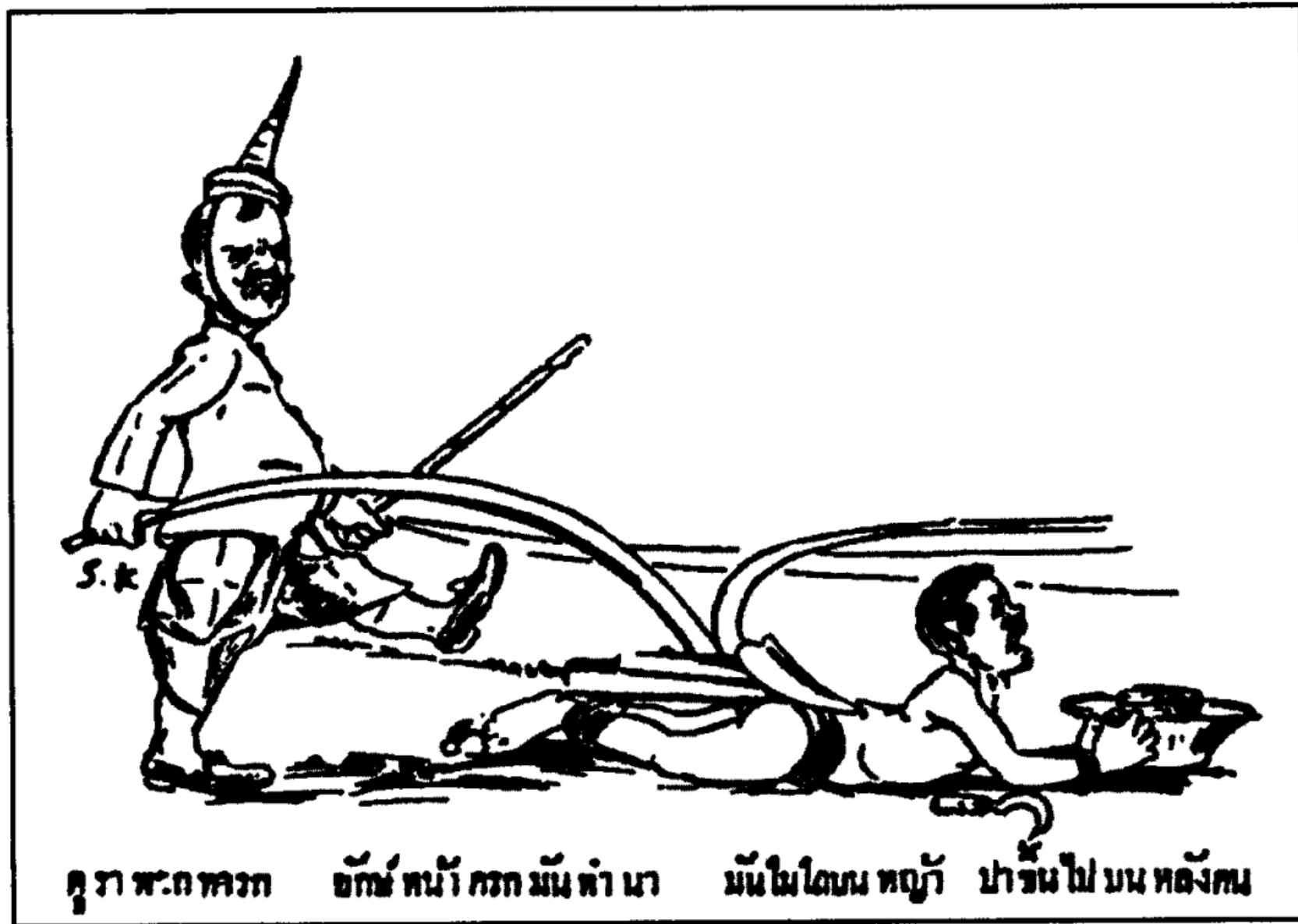
DeFronzo's critical factors: 24 June 1932

- Dictatorship(ish)
- Segregation
 - Monarch and people
- Unity of goal
 - To make monarchy under the constitutional law
- Weak government
 - King was away from the main palace.
- Intervention
 - No intervention, no bloodshed (*arguably*)

Manifesto: First announcement of People's party

All the people

When this king succeeded his elder brother, people at first hoped that he would govern protectively. But matters have not turned out as they hoped. **The king maintains his power above the law as before. He appoints court relatives and toadies without merit or knowledge to important positions, without listening to the voice of the people. He allows officials to use the power of their office dishonestly, taking bribes in government construction and purchasing, and seeking profits from changes in the price of money, which squanders the wealth of the country...**



"Cruel-faced giants don't plough on the grass. Instead they lift up the plough for use on human backs." Si Krung, 4 August 1931

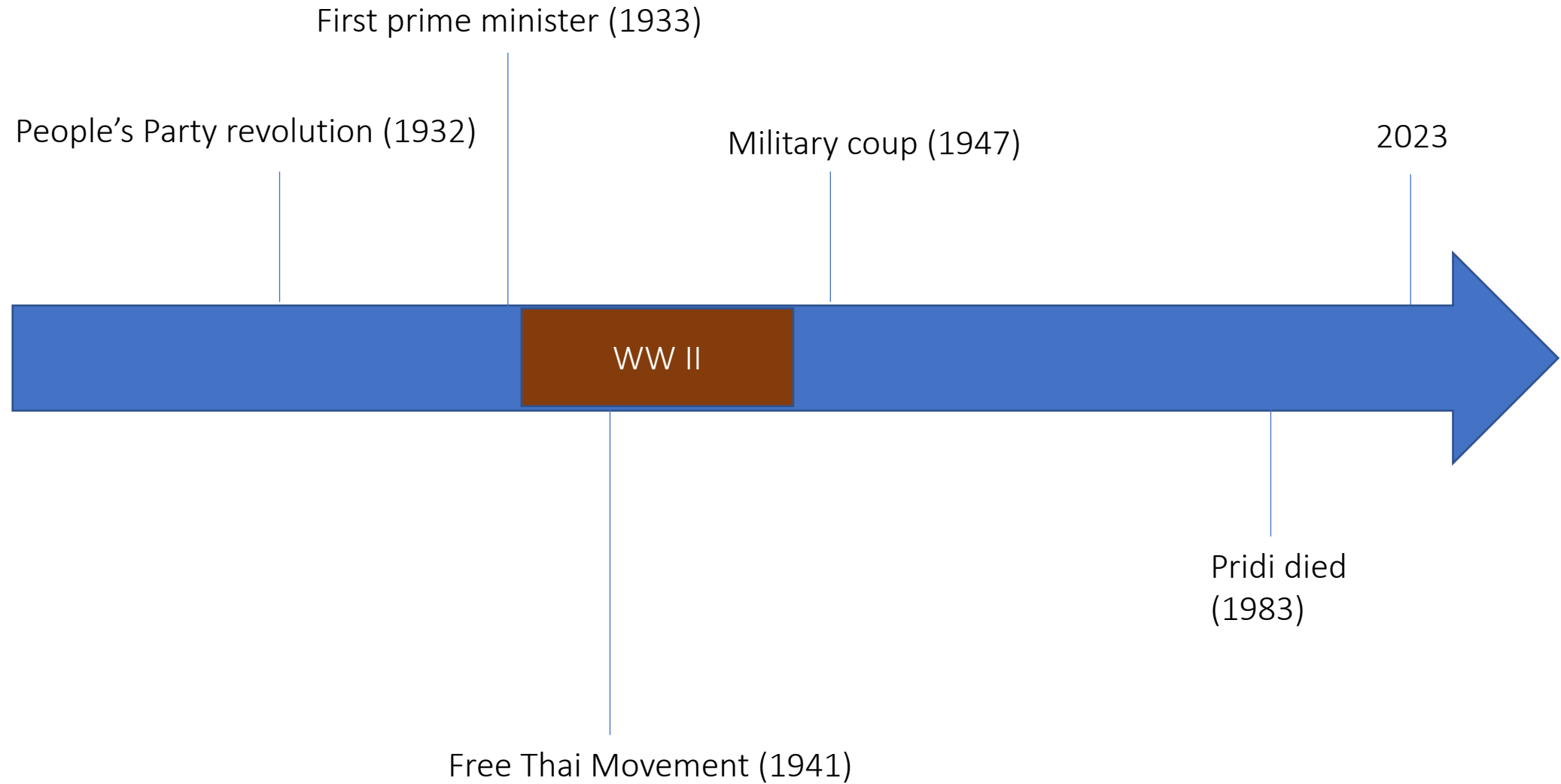
What did he think?

- “What I have done this time was for the nation and for the majority of the people. I thought we are born only once, and when there is a chance to do something, we should do it. I should not behave like the scum of the earth”
- His plan was not perfect
 - Could not convey (at that time) people’s support
 - Was in a rush.
 - Got betrayed

Common criticisms

- The problem does not lie in the monarchy system itself. However, it is lying to the people who exploit the monarchy system.
 - Article 112: Lèse-majesté law
- Thailand is not ready, educationally, for democracy system.
 - Elite VS Non-elite

Rough Timeline



Aftermath



6 October 1976 Massacre
Source: Doc6



2020 Protest
Source: Thairath

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