

Red Siam Manifesto

A call to change the direction of Thai society

Saturday 14 February 2009, by [UNGPAKORN Giles Ji](#) (Date first published: 10 February 2009).

Giles Ji Ungpakorn, a political science professor and writer at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, was arrested in January and charged with lese majeste - insulting Thailand's royalty in his book, "A Coup for the Rich," in the wake of the 2006 military coup that deposed former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Ungpakorn, an occasional contributor to Asia Sentinel, fled Thailand over the weekend for the UK rather than present himself today to police to face three to 15 years in prison. He holds joint British and Thai nationality. Here, he issues a flame-throwing manifesto daring the people of Thailand to change the way the country's society works.

The enemies of the Thai people and democracy may have their army, courts and prisons. They may have seized and rigged parliament and established the government through crimes like the blockading of the airports and other undemocratic actions by the PAD. Yet those that love democracy, the Red shirts, have strength in numbers and are waking up to political realities. Disorganized and scattered, this movement of ours will be weak, but a party that is organized and self-led can create a democratic fist to smash the dictatorship.

While world leaders such as Obama struggle to solve the serious economic crisis, the Democrat government in Thailand is allowing thousands of workers to lose their jobs. The government sees its priority only in cracking down on opposition using lese majeste, it has even created a website where citizens can inform on each other. Troops have been sent into communities and villages to stifle dissent.

The enemies of democracy have guns, an army and shadowy bosses in high places. But their weakness is that they are united around an absurd and un-scientific ideology: the ideology of the monarchy. This ideology seeks to make Thais into groveling serfs. They want us to believe that an ordinary human being, just because of an accident of birth, can be transformed into a god, when the true abilities of the king are no different from millions of ordinary engineers, artists, farmers or skilled workers.

The conservative elites want us to believe that the king loves and takes care of the people. But the Thai population are quite capable of looking after themselves. All that is beautiful and honorable about Thai society has been created by working people.

This king:

- * Grew in stature under the corrupt military dictators: Sarit, Tanom and Prapass.
- * Allowed innocent people to be executed after they were falsely accused of killing his older brother.
- * Supported the blood bath at Thammasart University on 6th October 1976 because he felt that Thailand had "too much democracy". He was also the patron of the violent gang that were called the "village scouts".
- * Allowed the army to stage a coup in September 2006. Furthermore he allowed his name to be used

by the army, the PAD protestors and the Democrat Party, in the destruction of democracy.

* Has been an advocate of economic views which reveal his opposition to state social welfare for the poor. But what is worse, as one of the richest men in the world, the king has the arrogance to lecture the poor to be sufficient in their poverty (through the notion of the Sufficiency Economy).

Finally, this king allows his supporters to proclaim that he is "the father of the nation," and yet his own son is not respected by anyone in Thai society!

The elites in Thailand, who claim legitimacy from the king, are exploiters and blood-suckers. They are not the real owners of society. They should remember that their wealth and status is as a result of the hard work of those ordinary citizens whom they despise.

For the millions of Thais who know all this to be true, it is only fear and intimidation that stops us all from speaking this truth out loud.

If we are alone, we will be frightened. If we are together we will have courage. It is time to bring into the open our anger, courage and reason in order to destroy the fear in Thai society and to bring light back to our country. We must all ask questions about the present regime, which after all is nothing other than a dictatorship which shrouds us in darkness. When we all stand up and ask questions, they cannot jail us all.

So long as we crawl before the ideology of the monarchy, we shall remain no better than animals. We must stand up and be humans, citizens in a modern world.

The red, white and blue Thai flag was copied from the west in order to indoctrinate us to be loyal to "Nation Religion and King", the same slogan which was recently last used by the PAD protestors who blocked the airports. Yet during the French revolution, the red white and blue meant "Liberty Equality and Fraternity." This is the slogan we must use to free Thailand from the "New Order" which the PAD and the army have installed.

P.S.

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