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The objective of this thesis is to study the governing pattern of King Asoka the Great in general, in order to investigate whether the governing pattern of King Asoka the Great was influenced by the Buddhism principles and thoughts. The hypothesis is that the political thoughts and methods in Buddhism were sagacious tactics that applied by King Asoka the Great. The maintext analyzed is the version of Asoka record translated by Phadumpidok (Prayot Prayotto) and other documents are used as complementaries. Regarding methodology, the author used close textual analysis and historical approach.

The results of this thesis are as follows, the governing pattern of King Asoka the Great was both violent and non-violent policies. The periods of this study were the period of pre-reign, reign and post-reign. The political practices were characterized by seeking, legitimizing, using and maintaining political power. The Buddha concept and principle were employed only as sagacious tactics to legitimize and maintain power at the best.