

CHAOWANA TRAIMAS : GODFATHER AND POLITICS : POWER CONNECTION
IN THAI POLITICAL SYSTEM. THESIS ADVISOR : PROF. CHAI - ANAN
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The study reaches the following conclusions ; (1) Godfathers exercise their influence to exploit three major parts of interests, (political power, state power and economic power) in the context of economic, political and social transitional periods relying on the gap of inter-regime complex. They prefer to play the role of opportunists rather than the role of formal political groups because they do not struggle or compete for power to control any specific regime. (2) Godfathers strive to achieve their interests by means of exchanging the 3 sources of power (political base, bureaucratic base and economic base) through the mode of "inter-rim cooperation". (3) Godfathers are motivated to take part in political actions by outcomes of political priviledges. Their relationship to the political sphere is essentially a reactive instead of a proactive one.

In terms of political status, godfathers exist as an influence group as well as the last consumer in the political food chain reaction. They are merely operators - not manipulators - in the political system. Their major goal is to survive rather than to affect changes in the overall system.