

Pattama Kongsakpaiboon 2006: The Sangha and Thai Politics A.D. 1957-1973.

Master of Arts (History), Major Field: History, Department of History. Thesis Advisor:  
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The objectives of this research are 1) to study the Sangha role in politics and administration before 1957 and 2) to explain the relationship between the Sangha and politics during 1957-1973.

The result of this research has been found that since Sukhothai period, the relationship between the Sangha and Thai politics has been the institution of patronage. This relation has still been performed until present. Especially during 1957-1973 there was a closer relationship between the Sangha and politics when the situation of the communism danger had occurred. By this, the Sangha was pulled over role of the communism resistant state policy. It gave that the government could be intervened in the Sangha. Besides, the Sangha was the state organization which had to follow the policy of the state.

It is summarized that the socio-political change has influenced the administrative structure of the Sangha which was adjusted through the administrative structure of the state. In addition, the government would superintend the Sangha through government mechanism to enact the Sangha Acts. In addition to this, the socio-political change could overwhelm the Buddhist monks's political opinion that we can probably see from the political role of them. They have been even supporting or resisting the state policy and also claimed on the justice.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

