

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : State and Freedom of Mass Media : A Case Study of Radio
and Television Broadcasting of Political News

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The aim of this research is to study the problems of freedom of mass media in Thailand. As widely recognized, the freedom of mass media has often been restricted or infringed upon by the state, especially the freedom of reporting in radio and television broadcasting. However, since the adoption of Thailand's new constitution in 1997, the wind of change has been quite eminent. Articles 39 and 40 are basically aimed at enhancing the degree of freedom by, for the first time, reorganizing the issue of ownership and the interaction between the state and mass media.

This study was based on documentary research by relying on various sources of information such as official publications, researches, articles, and academic writings by well-known scholars.

This research argued that the claim of ownership of air wave, be it radio or television, by the state was the basic impediment to the freedom of radio and television broadcasting. Therefore, the restructuring of the right of ownership and its specific form of supporting organization would pave the way for increasing the degree of independence and freedom for radio and television broadcasting.