

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : The Political Leadership of Maj. Gen. M.R. Kukrit
Pramoj: A Case Study of The Role as The Prime
Minister (1975-1976)

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The objective of this thesis is to analyze the political leadership of Maj. Gen. M.R. Kukrit Pramoj in his prime-ministership of Thailand during 1975-1976 under the application of Leadership Theory.

Due to documentary analysis and interviews from various resources, the researcher found that M.R. Kukrit Pramoj exposed his talent of leadership inherited from his clan and formed by external circumstances of either society or education in his prime- ministry status in, at least, three roles externally as follows:

At first, he was able to use his essential leadership to manage his governmental ministry of the prime-ministership to accomplish the

governmental policy for the sake of whole Thai citizens within chaotic situations of politics influenced by various bargains for personal benefits from other governmental mixed parties successfully as well as from members of his own party. Moreover, although there are only eighteen representatives who were in his party which, on the one hand, did not externally sustain the governmental stability; but according to his potential leadership, he, on the other hand, paradoxically maintained the governmental stability for one year one month and four days.

Secondly, he was able to manipulate his leadership to solve national problems of Thailand on economics, politics and society in both rural and urban areas due to the awakening of democracy through his long sight, wide vision and rational self-conviction by the economical policy called "Financial Subsidiary for Rural Development" and social welfare. In addition, he was capable to solve political crisis of communism in Thailand promoted by the Communist Party of Thailand by diplomatic strategy successfully.

Thirdly, he excellently played a significant role in international affairs through diplomatic strategies enticed by his excellent rhetoric, long sight, wide vision and initiative ideas for, on the one hand, decreasing international conflicts of political ideology between democracy and communism that merely exploded in Thailand, and enhancing authentic relationships among neighboring countries as well as the People's Republic of China and the United States of America. On the other hand, peaceful situation and civilization were improved and interwoven among Southeast Asian countries not only in economics or societal situations but political atmosphere as well.