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KEY WORD:

MACHIAVELLIAN/ POLITICAL THOUGHT/ POLITICAL ROLES

NIRAT PHONGSITTITHAWORN : POLITICAL ROLES OF FIELD MARSHAL P. PIBULSONGGRAM AND
POLITICAL THOUGHT OF MACHIAVELLI. THESIS ADVISOR: ASSIST. PROF. CHAIYAN CHAIYAPORN, Ph.D.

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The thesis is aimed at comparing the political thought of machiavelli and Field Marshal P. Pibulsonggram's political roles in three aspects in relation to political power, namely, its ascendancy, maintenance, and termination, in order to analyse political phenomena in Thai politics, to prove the universal validity of Machiavelli's political thought in The Prince, and to open the frontier of the study from the theoretical application of Machiavelli's political thought to systematically understanding political phenomena in Thailand.

After undertaking this study, it show that

- 1 the political roles of Field Marshal P. Pibulsonggram during 1932-1944 can be delineated by Machiavelli's political thought in three aspects in relation to political power, namely, its ascendancy, maintenance, and termination,
- 2 Field Marshal P. Pibulsonggram is a politically virtuous (*virtu*) ruler in a machiavellian sense;
- 3 Field Marshal P. Pibulsonggram's political roles are machiavellian;
- 4 the application of political thought to studying political phenomena can be done with regard to the political behaviour only not the intention of the actor;
- 5 the Truth of the nature of politics can be understood by the political thought of Machiavelli,
- 6 in successfully applying Western political thought to understanding political roles of a politician, amongst other things, one has to consider and select some certain similar aspects to be studied.

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