

## C731494 : MAJOR

GOVERNMENT

KEY WORD:

VIOLATIONS / BUDDHIST CANONS / BUDDHIST MONK / POLITICAL /  
AUTHORITIES / LEGITIMACY

PRAWIT PRUANGKAN : VIOLATIONS OF BUDDHIST CANONS BY  
BUDDHIST MONK AND POLITICAL AUTHORITIES : A STUDY OF  
INCIDENTS DURING B.E. 2528-2538. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO PROF.  
DAMRONG DHARMARAKSA, 245 pp. ISBN 974-635-059-5

Thai society is structured by firm belief in buddhism. The Sangkha is not only responsible for inculcating Buddhist virtue for citizen of the country, but also entitled to provide legitimacy for the ruling elites.

The findings of this study indicate that violations of buddhist canons by buddhist monks during the period of absolute monarchy had little impact political and other institutions. The reason is due to the fact that the king, as the Buddhist principal patron, enjoyed his absolute power in solving the problem according to his views and whims. However the violations during democracy period, when political power is moved from the king to the elected cabinet, induced tremendous impact on Thai society and political institutions in particular. The impacts on political institutions consist of :

1. Direct impact which hardly affects political institution.
2. Indirect impacts which seriously affect political institution in the long term.

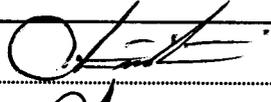
These impacts will eventually result in the decline of the legitimacy of political system and political power. It is because of the importance of Buddhist institution to Thai society is clearly shown by Thai people's high respect for the monk who is directly responsible for instilling Buddhist social values to Thai citizens including politicians. Once a high esteem monk violates the canons, he will be severely criticized and rejected by the public. The politician also may lose his faith in Buddhism and probably become immoral politician which adversely affect the political system. Moreover, it was the mass media which played important roles in providing the information concerning the violations to the public and the politician.

The author proposes that the appropriate uses and the development of mass media are inevitable for the sustainability and prosperity of Buddhism in Thailand.

ภาควิชา..... การปกครอง

สาขาวิชา..... การปกครอง

ปีการศึกษา..... 2539

ลายมือชื่อผู้ผลิต..... 

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา..... 

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม.....