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: MAJOR

GOVERNMENT

BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICS / CHATICHAI ADMINISTRATION / INTEREST GROUPS

SAROCH SOONSAPAYA, POLICE LIEUTENANT COLONEL. : BUSINESS AND POLITICS

IN THE CHATICHAI CHOONHAVAN ADMINISTRATION.

THESIS ADVISOR: ASSO. PROF. PORNSAK PHONGPHAEW, Ph.D.

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The study was aimed to investigate political roles of businessmen as interest groups and the way in which they are involved with politics. It was hypothesized that businessmen are interest

groups who get involved the politics for the benefit of their own-interests.

The study found that businessmen were interest groups having one of the highest political power during the Chatichai Choonhavan Administration. Factors that brought businessmen into politics were the highest growth in economy and connection between business power and political parties. In addition, businessmen had not only positive roles in political system, such as development of democracy, but also negative roles in political system, such as causing the interconnection of business and politics and thus giving the administration the nick name, "Buffet Cabinet". This negative roles finally brought about political turmoil leading to a coup by National Order Restoration Council on 23 February 1991.

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