

# # C431761 : MAJOR GOVERNMENT  
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THE INFLUENTIAL IN THAI POLITICS : A CASE STUDY OF AUTO THEFT NETWORKS.

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The purpose of this research was to study the influential persons in auto theft network. The data were collected from aggregate data filed at the Auto Theft Prevention and Suppression center, Crime Suppression Division, and from policemen working at the Center. The affidavits of alleged auto offenders, and data from a general information search were also included through interviewing during 1994-1995. The theoretical concepts of power and influential have been used as framework of analysis.

It was found that there were two groups of influential persons in auto theft. The first comprised government officials, i.e. soldier, police, Kamnan and village headmen. The second group are traders. Both groups hired a gang of drivers to steal cars specified by Cambodian buyers. In general, the stolen cars were popular makes in Thailand. After having been stolen, the cars were transferred to the influential persons by a different gang. In order that the cars could sell through the check points before reaching the Thai-Cambodian border, the influential persons would contact government officials--policemen, soldiers, para-military, Kamnan and village headmen--to get help for this purpose. Everybody involved in the theft would be given cash, the amount of which would be divided by the influential persons, according to the agreement when the Cambodian buyers had the cars. However, when the government officials strictly controlled them, they would be less active. If some of them were arrested, the influential persons would have them released on bail or had somebody else dismiss the charge. In case of death, new members would be recruited. This made it very difficult for the police to eliminate the networks.

Moreover, the influential persons in the auto theft networks shared something in common with other influential persons in other illegal activities in that area, locally and nationally. Through conducting business, thus, increasing their popularity, these influential persons may be inclined to take on other illegal activities such as arms sales, drug sales and casinos.

ภาควิชา.....GOVERNMENT.....

สาขาวิชา.....GOVERNMENT.....

ปีการศึกษา.....1996.....

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