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PAWEENA INVISA : THE CONSTITUTION OF 1978 : A CASE STUDY OF ITS
SUITABILITY FOR THAI POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REALITIES.

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The purpose of this research is to investigate the Constitution of 1978 in order to evaluate whether that Constitution was suitable to the Thai actual political and social scenarios. In addition, it is an attempt to analyse various political crises which occurred during the enforcement of the Constitution and to conclude whether these crises arised as a result of the unsuitability of the principles laid down by the Constitution or of the political behaviour of the political groups.

The finding indicates that the Constitution of 1978 is suitable to the Thai socio-political realities at that time when Thai politics was in the state of power balance between the two main political groups: the authoritarian-conservative group and the democratic one. Thus, the Constitution had giver the opportunity to both groups to weild their power in harmony. This began with the first four years under the dictate of provisional clauses (1978-1983) where Thai political regime was operated within bureaucratic environment. Afterwards, the Kingdom was governed under mixed regime of democratic and bureaucratic rule, frequently referred to as "sami democratic regime" However, it is found that the actual cause of the political crises of each Governments which administered during the conflict with and within the Parliament and its dissolution, as well as the coup d' etat against the Government of General Chartchai Chunnahawan on February 23, 1993, was not caused by the defects of the principles of the Constitution, but was prompted as an aftermath of political behaviours of the leader groups: the bureaucrats and the politicians, especially, the power struggle and the search for personal gains through the exercise of political power.