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NOPPADOL PETKAM : POLITICS AND THE ROYAL THAI POLICE.

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This study is intended to investigate the relationships between police and Thai politics. By the large, police and Thai politics are closely related in the following manners.

Police tends to be under political influence in the way that it is used as an instrument of politicians. Politicians often intervene in the personal management of the Police Department and also control its activities. Because of the fact that police possesses manpower, and weapons, therefore, the politicians want to use the police force to support their political power. The other reason is that the police structure is very easy for political domination by politicians. Moreover, the military always plays an important role in Thai Politics by using the police to support the military power, and controls the Police Department. Finally, Thai political culture does not encourage democracy for the Thai officials, for they are very submissive to politicians, whose they regard politicians that they are their bosses. Police creates their influence both directly and indirectly. In Thailand, politicians often intervene the Police Department by appoint their own people to hold some key positions in order to help politicians to gain more power.

The result of this study can be summarized that the Thai police and politics are related with each other. Politicians use police to support their political power. Paradoxically, Thai police officials seem to be in political positions and they have, in turn, to please their politicians to help them to succeed what they want. Inevitably, Thai police administration is influenced by politicians.