

CHAVALID SONGKITT : THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE OF DR.PRIDI BANOMYONG
(B.E. 2475-2490) THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. VITHAYA SUCHARITTHANA
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This is a study of how Dr.Pridi Banomyong, known as the most powerful civilian politician since 1932, strives to gain his political power. His political struggle during the period of 1932-1947 illustrates the political fighting between the civilian and military elites in Thai political history.

Dr.Pridi's political success during 1932-1947 is attributed to a number of factors. They are as follows :

1. His outstanding educational accomplishment, knowledge and ability propel Dr.Pridi Banomyong to a high status acknowledged and accepted by most elite and intellectual. This serves him well as a firm base for a political career.

2. Dr.Pridi Banomyong makes use of nationalism as an ideology in his political struggle evidenced especially by the creation of the Free Thai Movement during the World War II period in Thailand.

3. Dr.Pridi Banomyong also makes good use of democratic practice and institutions such as constitution, parliament, elections, parties as means to reach his political goal.

Dr.Pridi Banomyong knows well how to manipulate these three attributes according to circumstances to his benefit.