

Thesis Title AN ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THAI
STUDENT MOVEMENT

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Academic Year 1985

ABSTRACT

This study investigated : 1) the student movement before 1964, 2) causes of the student movements during the years 1964-1984, 3) working procedures and activities in student organization which went on during the years 1964-1983%

Research Method

This study is a historical research project. Various sources of information and pertinent documents were examined.

Conclusions

1) The objectives of the student movement in the early period: which was led by the organization of Students' Committee, were to protect right and justice and to call for peace. The movement was influenced by the progressive group in the circle of publishing business and literature at that time. Apart from gatherings, protests, marches, there were also manifestation of new ideas especially socialism.

As for the social aspect, the students demanded that the graduates should serve the society. There was the first attempt to establish a student organization of various institutes.

2) There were formal and informal types of student organizations, both of which had the leading roles. The formal ones, led by the Student Organization, were the National Student Center of Thailand (NSCT), the Student Organization of 20 institutes and the Student Federation of Thailand. The informal group was the independent group and assembled student from different institutes who were interested in philosophy, literature and social problem. They identified themselves as different, searching and deried power. Later, the independent group was composed of students with interest in social and political problems. They were more aggressive and needed more power. This independent group had major role informing student movement of Thailand.

3) The conflict of the two groups came from opposing ideologies, tactics and strategies. They separated. In 1972, the Independent Student Union of Thailand was formed and in 1973 emerged the Free Students Union of Thailand. Both organization reunited in 1975-76, derived some ideologies from the Communist Party of Thailand.

4) Factors from inside and outside universities affected the growth of student movement. Freedom and liberty which were restricted, meaningless activities, lack of academic ambience and distant relationship between instructors and students contributed to push the students to the outside society. The idea was supported by

intellectuals and progressive group. The reality of social problems in rural and urban areas and also the dictatorship at that time accelerated the students to search for solutions for the society. These factors made them require more roles in social and political aspects.

5) After the suppression in the incident of October 6, 1976, the students with progressive ideologies returned. They succeeded in reestablishing student organization, student council and student party. Due to the remaining influence of the Communist Party of Thailand, the fear of government, the students formed the organization in a secret and strict manner. However, conflicts reappeared in the operation stage. The lack of experience and the rapid change in political situation were the caused that the roles of students were not really recognized.

6) The progressive group in student movement began to have conflicts in ideologies, while the socialist countries had problems and fought for power. Many students who had joined the Communist Party of Thailand returned into town. The ideas of student movement were criticized. The differences in considering problems and directions of the movement were the beginning of fraction in student movement.

7) Student movement in later period was manifested by gathering of students within university of between a few ones. In 1984, the Student Federation of Thailand was founded. And the organized roles of students have begun since then.

Suggestion

The student organization was established in order to solve the problem of learning and teaching in universities. It is hope that administrators should provide a chance for students to fulfill themselves in both academic growth and self-development. Students also should be received more attention and supervision from administrators. Such attention and supervisions from university administrators.