

Thesis Title	IDEAS OF POWER IN ISAN LEGENDS
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#### ABSTRACT

There are many approaches theories, and ideas in studying Political Science. Studying about power is one of the most important approaches in Political Science because power is very important thing for all the systems of societies. Power has much responsibility in doing the laws of societies and the way of human life. Studying about the ideas of power has been very long time ago among many other approaches in social sciences.

This thesis is to study the ideas in the ancient time of Isan Society, especially from Isan legend, using power approach for analysis. The importance of studying ancient Isan ideas of power is to understand the root of political ideas of Isan people which bring us to understand the ideas of the present, because the ancient ideas represent the evolution of present ideas. Using legends to be models in studying because the legends reflect the thought of the people in society and the legends play a decisive role in socialization of the society.

The aim of this thesis is to study about the ideas of power in Isan legend such as the properties, characters, resources and using of power, and will make a comparative analysis of the

East and West ideas of power to understand its similarity and difference. Besides this work will express the effect of these ideas in present Thai politics.

The methodology of studying is to select some important Isan legends depending on the opinions of the most important professors of Isan literatures to decide which Isan legends are more important and well-known. This thesis is a documentary research by studying the contents of the themes.

The hypotheses of this research are

1. Power is the capacity which one can do something and control or order the others as the first wishes.
2. The belief systems of societies identify properties, characters and resources of power in societies.
3. The properties of power are not have value meaning (good or bad) but the using and the result of using power will make and evaluation of power

The conclusions of this research are as hypotheses are, the properties of power are the capacities of someone to do something which they want and can make the others done as they want. The properties of power in Eastern and Western aspects are the same in some issues, they are someone who have much power and someone haven't but the importance difference about these are the beliefs about superstitious power, Isan people believe in this very much but the Political Scientist of the West aren't emphasize in this issue. The ancient ideas of western political philosophers concerned reason, logic or fact in societies for answering their questions. About the characters and the resources of power, the

Isan ideas involve in religion and the Superstitious thought very much.

Some of these ideas are the same as the West and some are different. The same are the beliefs of the elite class in governing and the difference aspects are, the West aren't emphasize in religion in researching their theories, except the middle age of Europe which the same as Isan, because in the middle age the religion had much influence in secular governments.

The ideas of Isan and the West are the same about evaluation of the value Judgement of power. The power hadn't value meaning in itself but the using and results of using power make value judgement of that power. Anyone can have power if he has the resources of power use them.

The ideas of power in ancient Isan society are represented to the present. The most important thing is the belief in elite classes, influence of religion, and Superstitious belief. Nevertheless present Isan society is developing in economic, social and political activities very much. The ideas of Democracy and science spread all over the society, so the new thoughts are more acceptable but the traditional ideas aren't destroyed. These are two currents in the society. The result of the two are, both positive and negative way for Democracy. The positive are about the moderate way of living, the generosity and compromise, the negatives are that the traditional thought not to encourage popular participation. These make Democtatic regime in Thai society has many problems.