

## **ABSTRACT**

**Title** Political Conflicts in Thailand During 2001 – 2012

**Field** Politics ลักษณะวิชา การเมือง

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The objective of this research was to examine Thailand political conflicts, including causes, factors brought to conflict, and the possible conflict resolution. The qualitative study focuses on political conflicts took place during 2001 – 2012, by observing political incidents, economic and education data of population, the formulation of mass movements and government's actions. The study found that factors brought to conflict were population's differences based upon levels of income, education and social exclusion. The conflicts resulted from a struggle for economic interest and executive power between the noble or old capitalist group and the monopoly or new capitalist group. The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), representing the old capitalist group, carried out their conservative stance and rallied support from middle-class people. The National United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), representing the new capitalist group, carried out their ideology on the need for change, and rallied support from grassroots people and those who gained benefit from Taksin's populist policy. Mass provocation escalated the level of conflict from differences to contradiction, polarization and violence, which finally brought to the losses of life and property during 2008 – 2010. Recommendations are as follows: all sectors of the society should be actively involved in the reconciliation process; reconciliation process must be taken step by step in accordance with international standard; public hearings of all sectors of the society should be held in regarding to the formulation of new constitution and reconciliation law; the government ought to establish an agency or mechanism on conflict resolution in order to cope with possible new conflicts; decentralization from central government to local administrative body should be swiftly done; moral and ethic should be widely taught since the kindergarten age; lower income gap by tax reform; judiciary process and performance of the Royal Thai Police should be examined and improved for more efficient law enforcement; and lastly, adjustment to election system is required to achieve more efficient, transparent, fair and accountable elections.