

ATHON KURAVON : THE DRAFTING PROCESS OF THE 1978 CONSTITUTION AND  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN THAILAND. THESIS AVISOR : ASSO.  
PROF. PONGPEN SAKUNTAPHAI, 296 pp.

This study aims at finding out the motives of the group of people with political power who prescribe the principles in the drafting of the 1978 Constitution whether they want to have the constitution to serve as basic rules in the process of the development toward full democratic political system or simply as one of political tools for legitimation and an endorsement for the group in their future political role.

The study find out that this group of people does not wish to have the constitution serve as ground rule for full democratic government basing on the principle of popular sovereignty. On the contrary, they want to use the constitution as political means for the group to gain access to political power legally in the future. Although this constitution has the provisions dealing with two stages of democratic development process; which is the phase of first four years as spelled out in the temporary provisions and the phase after that yet this is a mere political ploy with no effect in real terms other than serving the purpose of reducing political tension mong group at that time.