

## C830064 : MAJOR GOVERNMENT

KEY WORD: DEMOCRACY-ORIENTED GROUPS/ CIVIL SOCIETY/ POLITICAL REFORM  
CHUTIMA SUMON : DEMOCRACY-ORIENTED GROUPS IN THE CIVIL  
SOCIETY : ROLES IN PRESSURING FOR THE POLITICAL REFORM  
POLICY, 1993-1995. THESIS ADVISOR : CHANTANA BANPHASIRICHOTE,  
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This study analyzes the characteristics, roles and pressure exerted by democracy-oriented groups in demanding political reform during 1993-1995 until its adoption as government policy. It hypothesized that democracy-oriented groups used mass mobilization and the creation of collective consciousness in society to make the state see the importance of political reform, and used political pressure so as to ensure the adoption of policy which was in keeping with their wishes.

The study found that the democracy-oriented groups in civil society included 1) individuals 2) groups/organizations concerned about politic and democracy and 3) think-tanks. They formed a loose and impermanent coalition in a cooperative endeavour on the basis of horizontal relationships.

These played roles in exerting pressure for political reform from the stage of problem identification through to the stage of political formulation to draft the country's constitution anew. They exerted pressure on political society by providing information to the public through the media, by lobbying political society actors, by mobilizing mass opinion and concurrence. All this had no specific pattern but depended on the political situation and the government's work efficiency. However, all these methods aimed at scrutiny of government and at making demands and policy recommendations such that they were adopted by the government. The result was that successive governments had to adopt a policy of political reform so as to reduce civil society pressure by appointing the Committee to Develop Democracy (CDD) during the Chuan Leekpai government and by appointing the Political Reform Committee (PRC) during the Banharn Silpa-archa government.

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