

Teeranut Ratcharongmaung 2011: An Analytical Study of Thai Political Problems and Solutions in the View of Phrabhramagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto). Master of Arts (Philosophy and Religion), Major Field: Philosophy and Religion, Department of Philosophy and Religion. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Praves Intongpan, Ph.D. 149 pages.

This research is an analytical study of Thai political problems and solutions in the view of Phrabhramagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto), The objectives of the study are: 1) To study political problems in Thai society from past to present. 2) To study the political ideas of Phrabhramagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto) and 3) To analyze the political solutions on the view of Phrabhramagunabhorn.

The study shows political problems in Thai society from the past till present, firstly, derive from the adoption of the Western culture, regardless of the culture of their own. Secondly, the role of monastery institution to educate people in the society was deteriorated. Finally, the leaders, officeholders or the people nowadays don't believe in meritocracy.

In the part of the study Phrabhramagunabhorn's political idea shows his view that noble society must be the meritocratic society, members of the society must believe in dharma and uphold their moralities and righteousness onto any consideration. In order of politics, Phrabhramagunabhorn thought that it is the role of the government to aim for common interest. The good political constitution is indefinite, but must be for the peace of the society. His thoughts were directly related to dharma or the doctrine of Buddhism and his opinion on the political problems were the development with the lack of balance and lack of dharma and part of the influence of Western culture, including the lack of understanding of the real freedom and equality.

Thus, the solution for Thai society is to return to improve the quality of people's lives on the knowledge of Thai culture, develop the moral of politicians. To make meritocracy the basis of Thai democracy society, which is to use the principles of dharma for development and worthily use Buddhism's doctrine in appropriate cases and circumstances.

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