

# Thailand



**Area:** 514,000 sq km  
**Population:** 69 millions (6-8 in Bangkok!)

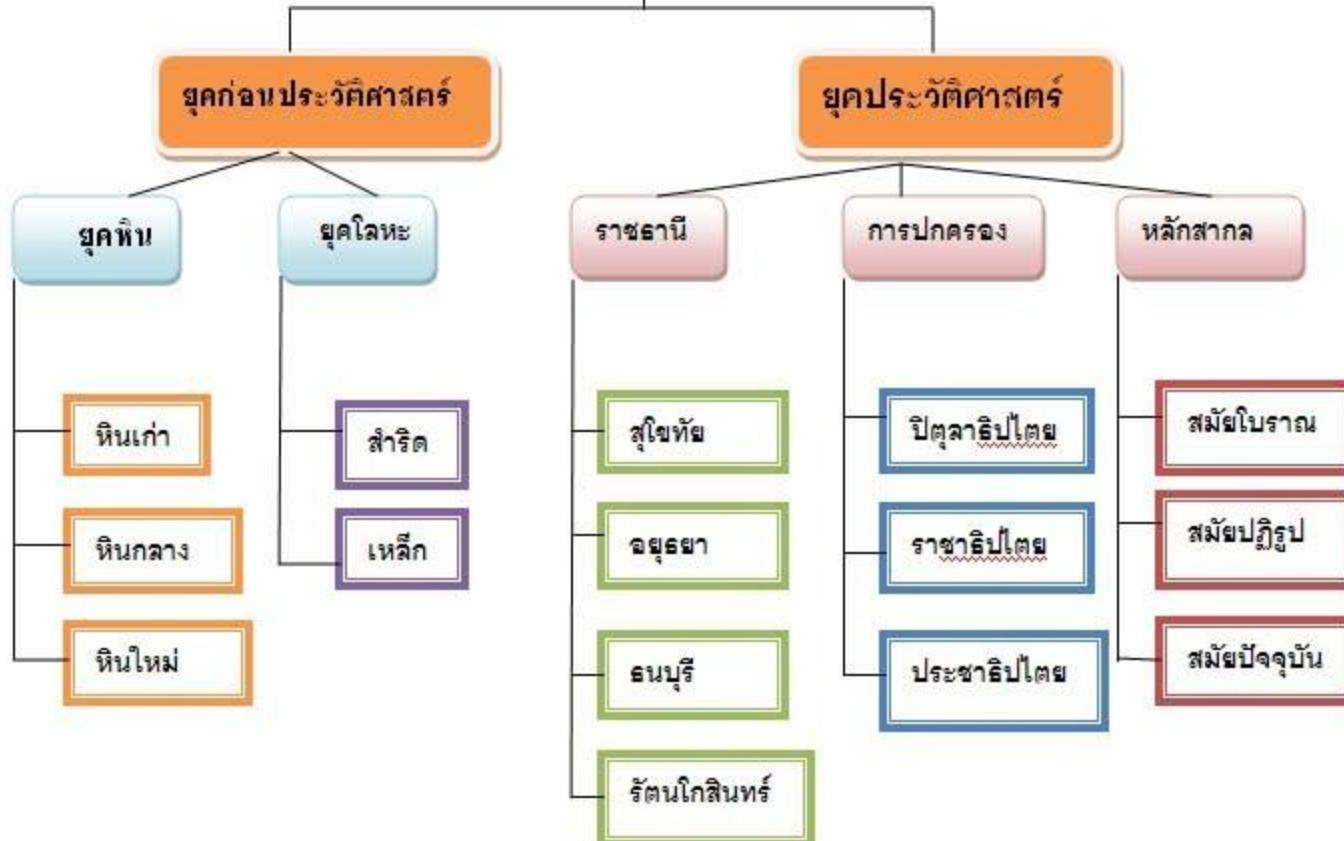
**Ethnic groups:** Thai 75%, Chinese 14%, other 11%

**Religions:** Buddhism 95%, Muslim 3.8%, Christianity 0.5%, Hinduism 0.1%, other 0.6% (1991)

**Languages:** Thai, English (secondary language of the elite), ethnic and regional dialects

**Literacy:** 96%  
**Prime Minister:** Prayud

## การแบ่งยุคสมัยในประวัติศาสตร์ไทย



# Origin of Thais/Siamese

- First theory: Thais originated in northwestern Szechuan in China and migrated to Thailand. They split into 2 groups: the first group settled down in the North or “Lanna”, and the second group went southward and became “Sukhothai”.
- Second theory: According to prehistoric artifacts in Baan Chiang village and sophisticated culture, Thais have been here for more than 3,500 years.
- So far, no definite conclusion but for sure, Thais had already settled down in SEA by 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Map 1.2: Approximate General Location of Some Tai Languages



# Khmer Influence

- 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries, central and western areas of Thailand was occupied by Mon civilization called Dvaravati.
- Mon shared same lineage as the Khmers.
- 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries, Mon/Khmer influenced over central Thailand in terms of language(Sanskrit), art, and religion.(Khmer temples: Angkor, Phimai, Phanom Rung)
- Politically speaking, Khmer culture only dominated through vassals and governors.

# Lanna Period

- Covering Northern Thailand: Chiang Mai, Lampang, Lamphun (known as Haripunchai).
- Chiang Rai - Phayao was known as Yonok.
- The first leader of Lanna was King Mengrai (B.E.1802/A.D.1259) who seized Haripunchai and built Chiang Mai as a capital in B.E.1839/A.D.1296.
- He was a good friend of Phya Ngum Muang of Phayao and Phra Ruang of Sukhothai.

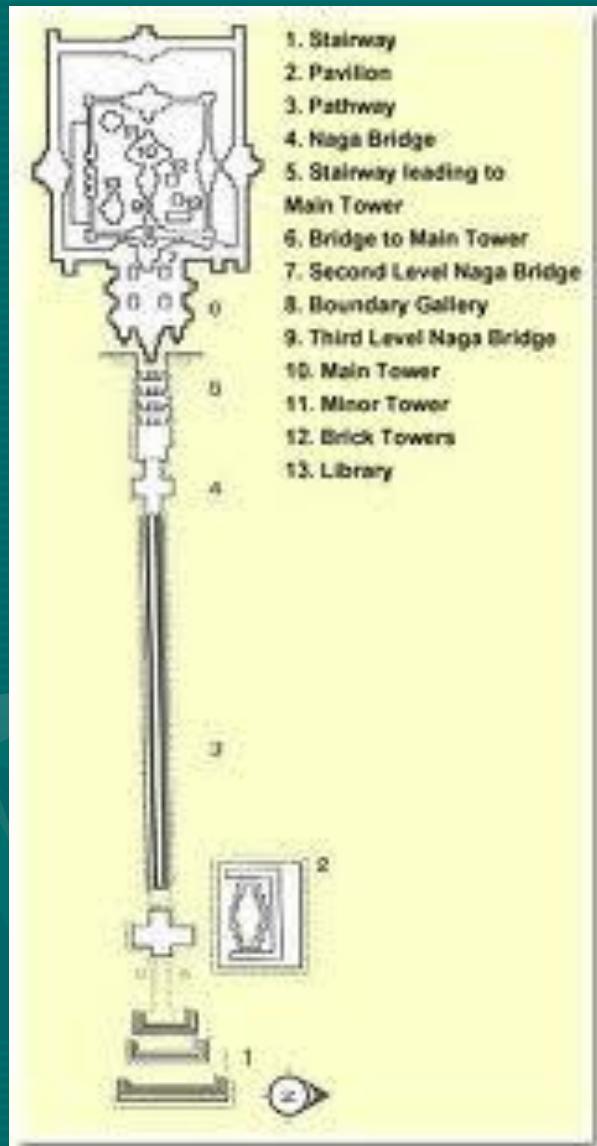
# Angkor Wat



# Phimai Historical Park



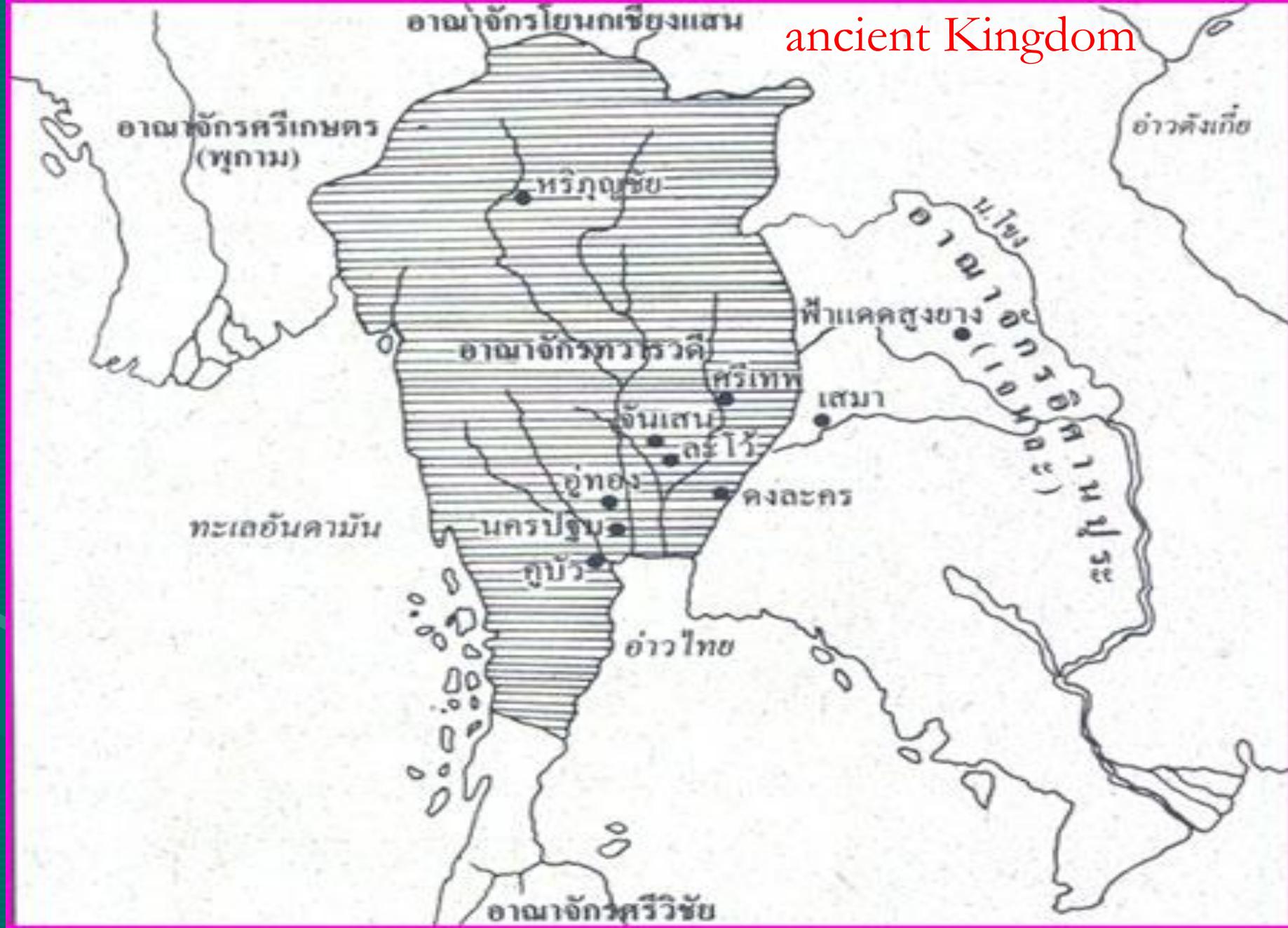
# Layout of Phanom Rung Temple



# Phanom Rung Temple



# ancient Kingdom

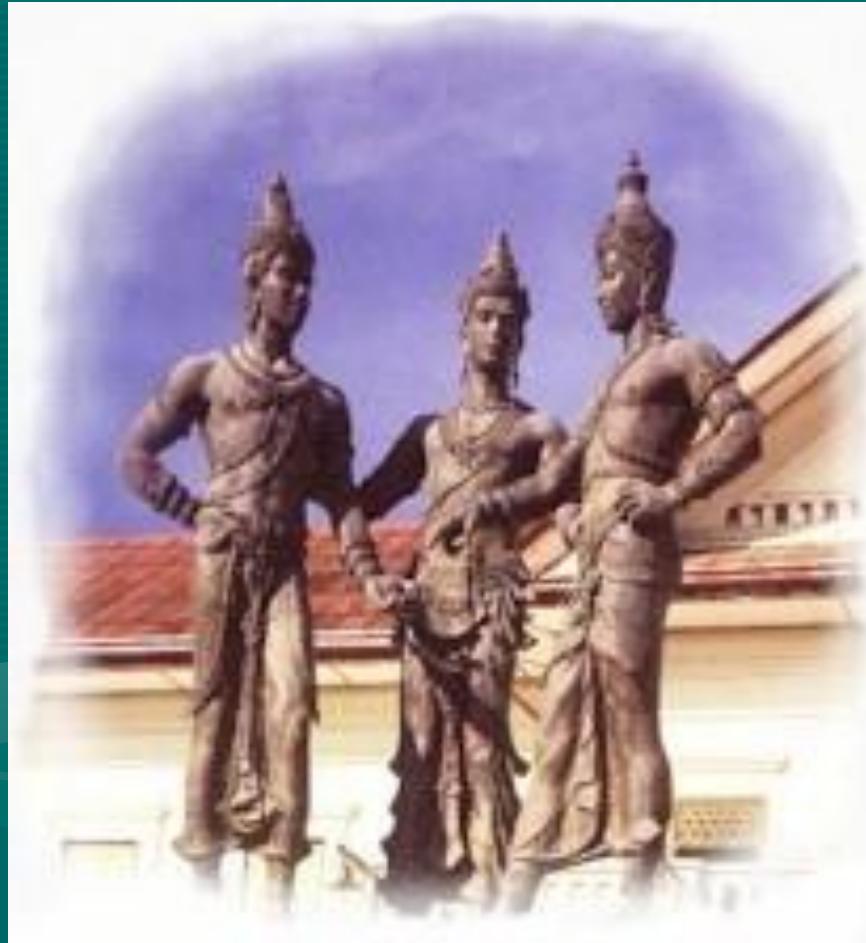


- Lanna flourished more than 200 years esp. in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century during King Tilokoraj period.
- Chiang Mai was chosen as the center of the Eight Council of Tripitaka – the primary Buddhist text. This was held at Wat Ched Yod (means temple of seven peaks)
- After King Tilokoraj passed away, Lanna weakened because of wars with Sukhothai's successors.

# Lanna Kingdom



# Three Kings Monument



# Wat Ched Yod



# A sculpture of deva (deity)



# Doi Suthep Temple

## A Chiang Mai's Landmark





# ประกอบด้วย ๔ ราชอาณาจักร

อาณาจักรสุโขทัย (พุทธศักราช ๑๓๕๒ - ๑๕๘๑)

อาณาจักรอยุธยา (พุทธศักราช ๑๓๕๓ - ๒๓๑๐)

อาณาจักรธนบุรี (พุทธศักราช ๒๓๑๐ - ๒๓๒๕)

อาณาจักรรัตนโกสินทร์ (พุทธศักราช ๒๓๒๕ - ปัจจุบัน)

# Sukhothai Period

- Sukhothai means the “Dawn of Happiness” and was claimed as the first kingdom of Thailand founded in A.D.1238 by 2 chieftains: Khun Bang Klang Tao and Khun Pa Muang.
- It was considered as the most flourishing period of Thailand and called golden age of Thai culture.
- It had strong friendship with China during King Ramkhamhaeng period. Traditionally speaking, he organized a writing system and finally developed to be modern Thai alphabets.

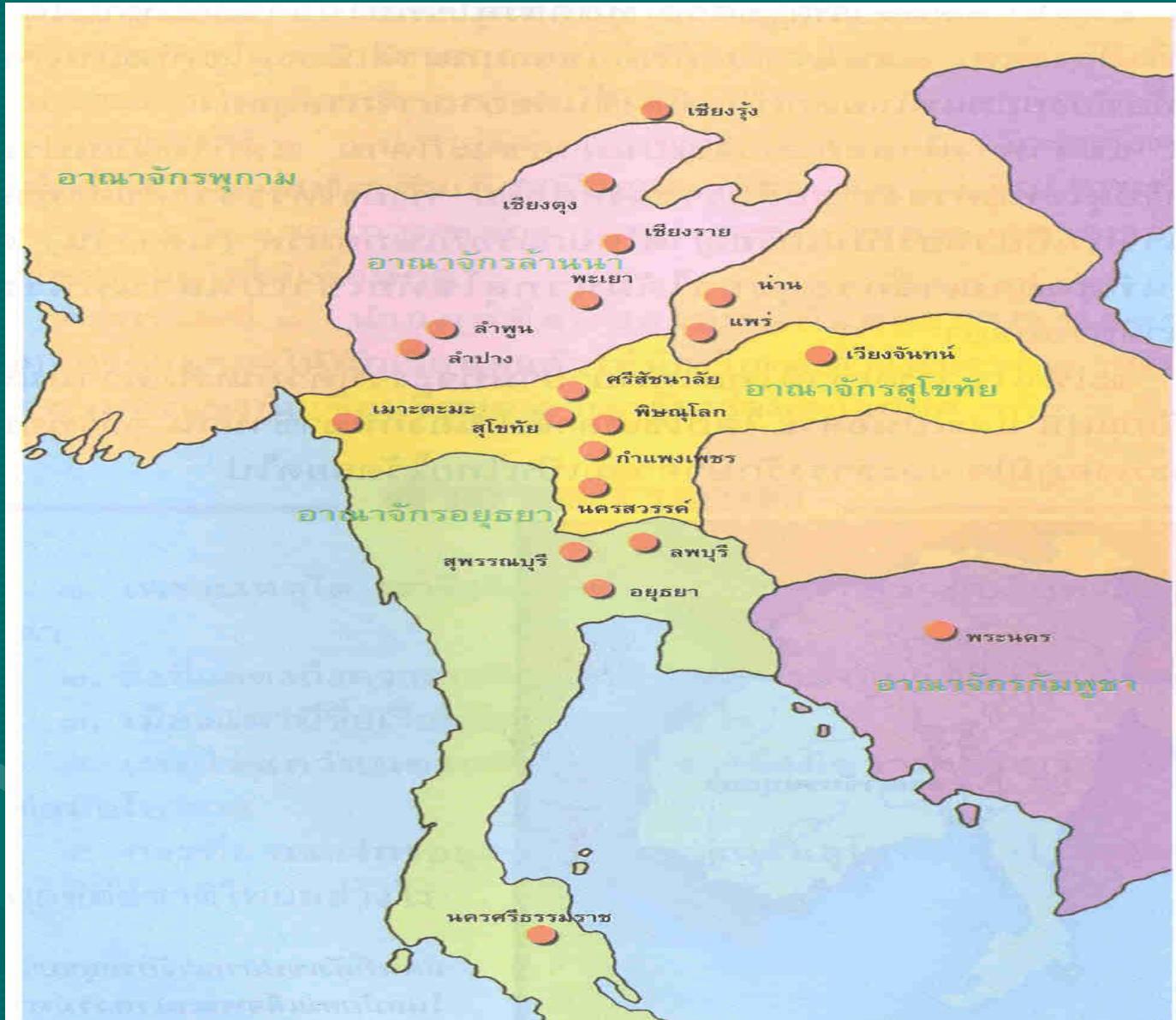
# King Ramkhamhaeng



# Stone Inscription



# Ancient Thai Alphabets



- Map of SEA in A.D. 1686



The first Thai kingdom was established in A.D.1238 at Sukhothai

Reached its peak during the reign of King Ramkhamhaeng, who invented Thai alphabets



**The kingdom of Ayutthaya  
existed for 400 years from 1350 to  
1767 , absorbing Sukhothai in  
1376**

**Siam as the strongest power in  
southeast Asia by the end of the  
fourteenth century**

**Thai kings: absolute monarchs,  
“the lord of the land” and “divine  
king”, at the apex of social and  
political hierarchy**

**The sakdi na system: The king allotted rice fields to officials in payment for their services.**

**Manpower in command determined their status**

**phrai (servants) at bottom of hierarchy**

Peasants planted rice for their own consumption, taxes, and exported to China

Foreign traders, including the Chinese, Indians, Japanese and Persians, and later the Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, British and French

**Siam fought constant wars for territories with neighbors:  
Chiangmai , Vietnam, Cambodia,  
and Loas**

# Burma defeated Ayutthaya twice.

First in 1569, King Naresuan restored independence



# Burma defeated Ayutthaya twice.

Second in 1767, the city was ransacked. Thai military commander, later became King Taksin, in 1769 moved the capital to Thonburi, across the Chao Phraya River from Bangkok

Mentally ill Taksin was deposed by Chaophraya Chakree, King Rama I (1782 – 1809), first king of the present Chakree dynasty, chose Bangkok as capital

- Thonburi (1767-1782)
- Bangkok (1782- now)
  - early period (1782- ~1800 (Rama IV)
    - recover and reestablish the stable Kingdom
    - Chakri dynasty
  - "Westernization" period: reaction to threat from western imperialism
    - Rama IV (King Monkut) 1851-1868
    - Rama V (King Chulalongkorn) 1868-1910
    - accept unequal treaties: 1855 Bowring Treaty: (with Britain), accept western terms of trade (low limit on import/export taxes, allow extraterritorial rights)
    - ceded some territory to Britain and France

# Power consolidation, and conflicts with Burma, Vietnam and Laos

Since King Rama IV, or King Mongkut (1851 – 1868), dealt with colonial powers of Britain and France, modernized to avoid being colonized



# The Bowring treaty with Britain, which

- restricted import duties to 3 %,
- abolished royal trade monopolies, and
- extraterritoriality to British subjects.

**King Rama V,  
or King Chulalongkorn (1868-1910)  
continued the reform:**

- Centralized administration**
- Slave abolition**
- Railways, telegraph**
- Gold standard**
- Modern taxation**

**“Buffer state”, but land loss to  
Britain and France:  
Parts of Burma, Laos, Cambodia,  
and Malaya**

**The land loss was the price paid for  
remaining free.**

# King Rama VI (1910-1925):

- Modernized education
- Promoted nationalism,  
paramilitary organization
- Declared war on Germany in  
WW I

# King Rama VII (1925-1935):

- Economic problems and the Great Depression (1930)
- Laid off officials to stabilize economy

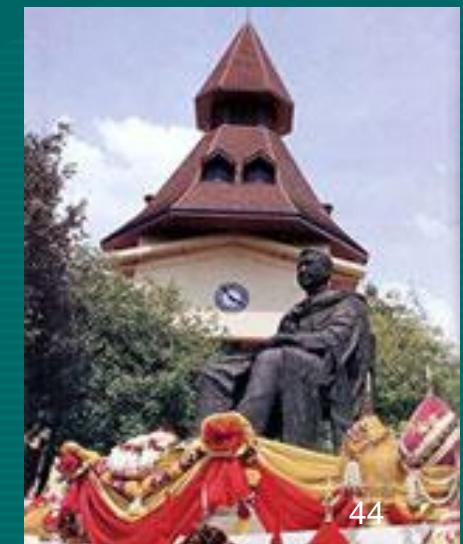
# King Rama VII (1925-1935):

- A coup on June 24, 1932 by 49 “Promoters”, changing absolute to constitutional monarchy
- Later abdicated to King Rama VIII

**1932-1973: dominated by military dictatorship**

**Prepared for democracy by reform in education, elections**

**Thammasat University founded in 1934 by Preedee Phanomyong, one of the “Promoters”**



General Phibunsongkram  
(Phibun) emerged as Prime Minister  
with “fascist” / “nationalistic”  
policies:

- Political repression
- Campaign against Chinese
- “Siam” to “Thailand”



# General Phibunsongkram (Phibun) emerged as Prime Minister:

- Alliance with Japan in WW II
- Ousted and came back after Preedee post-war government
- Postwar economic boom

# A coup against Phibun in 1957:

- A new PM  
General Sarit Thanarat
- Start economic planning



# PM General Sarit Thanarat

- A U.S. ally during Vietnam War
- Modernization and Westernization of Thai society
- Population boom

# General Thanom Kittikachorn (+ General Prapas) continued military rule in 1963:

- Economic progress and Bangkok growth
- Rural poor and activist movement

# General Thanom Kittikachorn (+ General Prapas) continued military rule in 1963:

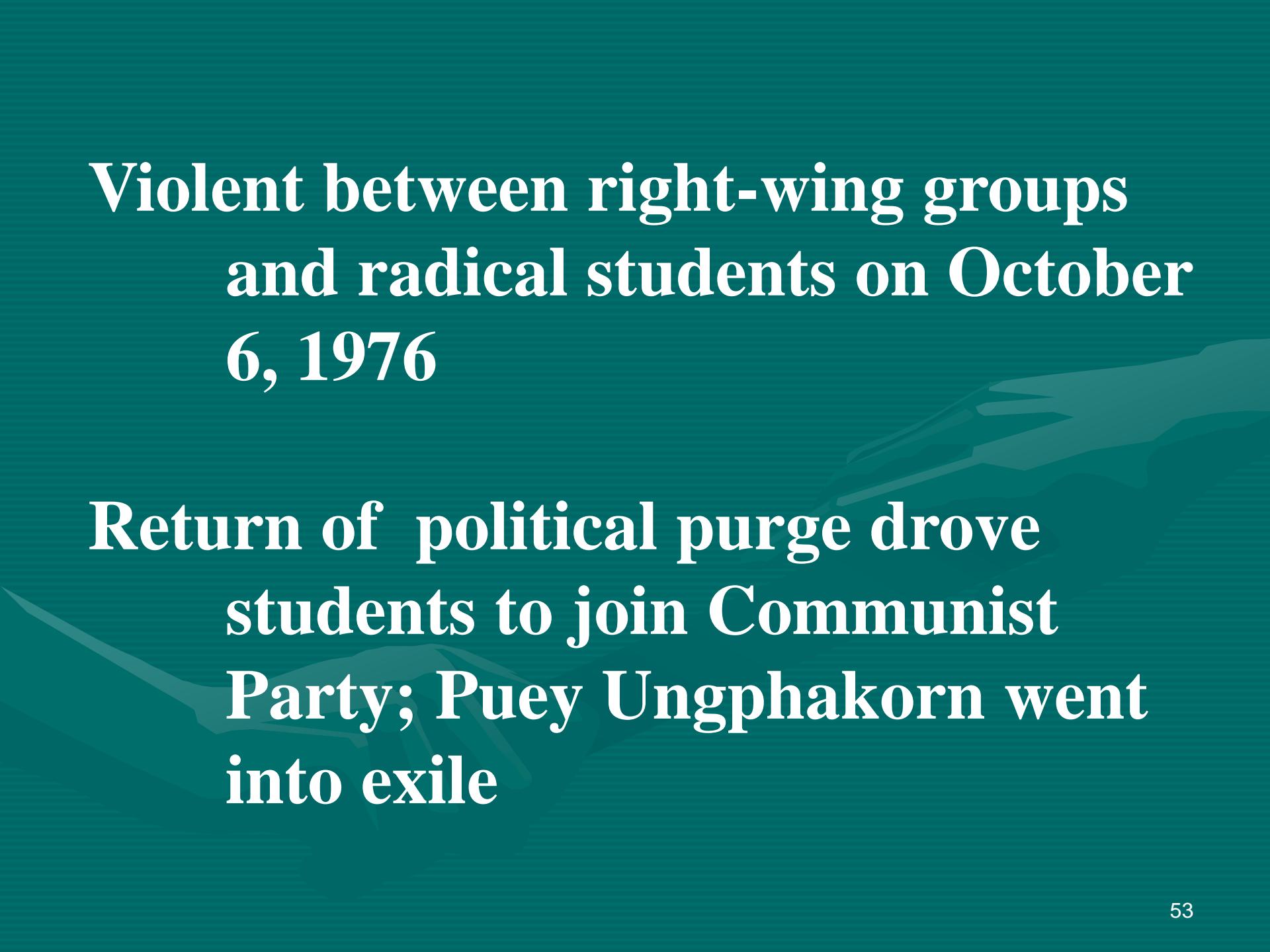
- **Role of university students:**  
critical of military,  
demand democracy

# **Student protest in October 1973, bloodshed in Thammasat (14 October)**

**King Bhumibol's intervention,  
ending the Thanom-Prapas  
junta**

**Post-1973 civilian rule was short-lived, and weakened by sharp oil price increase in 1974, leading to recession and inflation**

**Communist regimes in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia**



**Violent between right-wing groups  
and radical students on October  
6, 1976**

**Return of political purge drove  
students to join Communist  
Party; Puey Ungphakorn went  
into exile**

Another "coup" and military PM  
**General Kriangsak Chomanand**, forced out by high oil prices in 1980 and succeeded by army commander-in-chief, **General Prem Tinsulanonda**

# Eight years under Prem:

- End military interventions, insurgency
- Amnesty for ex-students
- Fast economic progress in exports, tourism and industries:  
“little tiger”

# Elected government of General Chaticahi Choonthavan

Another coup against “corrupt regime”, led by Generals Sunthorn Kongsompong and Suchinda Kraprayoon in 1991 brought in a civilian prime minister, Anand Panyarachun

**1992 election and Suchinda accepting to be PM led to huge protest by the Bangkok middle class and bloody clashes with soldiers, prompting the King's intervention and Suchinda's resignation**

## Elected governments since then:

- Chuan Leekpai (1992-1995 and 1998 – 2000)
- Banharn Silpa-acha (1996)
- General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh (1996-1997)
- Thaksin Shinawatra (2001-2006)



# Chavalit government and the economic crisis in 1997

Thaksin and his popularity,  
CEO-style,

- 73 billion baht sale of Shin shares tax-free, and
- Snap April 2006 election



**A military coup on 19 September  
2006 ousted Thaksin, and  
installed the Surayud  
Chulanont Government**

**Another constitution and another  
election (23 December 2007)  
gave the highest MP seats to the  
pro-Thaksin People Power  
Party**

A six-party coalition government,  
headed by PM Samak  
Sundaravej, leader of the  
People Power Party

Thaksin came back to face charges,  
but went into exile again in  
August 2008



**Somchai Wongsawat briefly led the government, replacing Samak, who was disqualified due to his cooking class TV show**



The Democrats managed to form a new coalition government, led by Abhisit Vejjajiva, who took office in December 2008 and had to deal with domestic political instability and the impact of the economic “hamburger” crisis



- Modern period (1932- now)
  - June 24, 1932, coup d'tat
  - overthrow of absolute monarchy (Rama VII) by junior military officer and civil servants (western educated)
  - the struggle for "true" democracy, lack of strong base for new democratic government, conflicts among elite groups
  - under military led governments
    - 1938-1944, 1948-1957: P. Pibunsongkram
    - 1957-1973: Sarit, Thanom
    - Cold War, anti-communist, Vietnam War, US aids, economic development
    - "Despotic Paternalism"

- Constitution movements:
  - Student(and intellects) Uprising in October, 1973 : confrontation of people's movement and government force
  - May 1992 demonstration demand for parliamentary government
  - 1997 constitution
  - from 1932-1997: 56 govts. (15 civilian PMs leading 29 govts, 17 years in office; 7 military PM leading 27 govts, 46 years in office



# Buddhism in Thailand

- in the past, Thai monarchs use Buddhism as unifying principle of society and legitimator of monarchic power esp. in times of transition.
- Buddhism has weakened over the past century:
  - now as rites and ceremonies only ?
  - commercialism of Buddhism(using animistic beliefs/magic, merit-making etc..)

# Thailand Key Industries

- ✓ **Fisheries**-ASEAN has been a major producer of fish and other fisheries products. Combined, the 10 ASEAN countries accounted for a quarter of global fish production. Of the world's top ten largest fish producers, four are from ASEAN - Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam, and the Philippines.
- ✓ **Tourism**-ASEAN and Thailand is the fastest growing destination-region in the world, followed by South Asia.
- ✓ **Textile and Apparels**-Textile is one of the largest export products from ASEAN, amounting to almost US\$ 10 billion in 2011.

# เปิดทำเนียบผู้นำรัฐบาล นายกรัฐมนตรีของไทย 29 คน มีใครบ้าง?

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| ลำดับที่ 1<br>พระยานโนบกรัตน์<br>นิตติธาดา  | ลำดับที่ 2<br>พินิจอก พระยาพหล<br>พลพยุหะเสนา                                       | ลำดับที่ 3<br>จอมพล แป๊ะ<br>พิบูลสงคราม   | ลำดับที่ 4<br>พันธุรัตน์ วงศ์<br>อภัยวงศ์  | ลำดับที่ 5<br>นายกิริ<br>บุญยงค์  | ลำดับที่ 6<br>หม่อมราชวงศ์เสมีย <sup>ร</sup><br>ปราโมช                                | ลำดับที่ 7<br>นายปรีดี<br>พันยยงค์  |   |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |
| ลำดับที่ 8<br>พลเรืองศรี กวัญ<br>ธรรมนวากล  | ลำดับที่ 9<br>นายพจน์<br>สารสิน   | ลำดับที่ 10<br>จอมพล กนกน<br>กิตติขจร   | ลำดับที่ 11<br>จอมพล สุขุม<br>โภณรัชต์   | ลำดับที่ 12<br>นายสุญญา<br>ธรรมรงค์ดี   | ลำดับที่ 13<br>พลเรือรัชวัช<br>ศักดิ์ ปราโมช  | ลำดับที่ 14<br>นายชาบีบกร<br>กรรย์วิเชียร   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ลำดับที่ 15<br>พลเอก เกรียงศักดิ์<br>ชัยบันกับ                                      | ลำดับที่ 16<br>พลเอก เปรม <sup>ร</sup><br>ติบุลลักษณ์                               | ลำดับที่ 17<br>พลเอก ชาติชาย<br>ชัย肯หะวัน   | ลำดับที่ 18<br>นายอาบันท<br>ปันยารชุน  | ลำดับที่ 19<br>พลเอก อุจิจนา<br>คราประยูร   | ลำดับที่ 20<br>นายชวน<br>หลังภัย  | ลำดับที่ 21<br>นายบรรหาร<br>ศิลปอาชา  |   |
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| ลำดับที่ 22<br>พลเอก ชวลิต<br>ยงใจยุทธ  | ลำดับที่ 23<br>พันธาราชโ哥 <sup>ร</sup> กีกขัน<br>ธนวัตร                             | ลำดับที่ 24<br>พลเอก สุรยุทธ <sup>ร</sup><br>จุลานนท์                               | ลำดับที่ 25<br>นายอ่อนนค <sup>ร</sup><br>สุคุณ                                       | ลำดับที่ 26<br>นายอ่อนนค <sup>ร</sup><br>สุคุณ  | ลำดับที่ 27<br>นายอภิสิทธิ์ <sup>ร</sup><br>เวชชาธิว                                  | ลำดับที่ 28<br>นางสาวยิ่งลักษณ์ <sup>ร</sup><br>ชินวัตร                               | ลำดับที่ 29<br>พลเอก ประยุทธ <sup>ร</sup><br>จันทร์โอชา |