

The
Prisoner
of
Bangkok
Vol. 1

tomtardis

TOMTARDIS

The Prisoner of Bangkok

A Collection of Artcles, Vol. 1

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To My Brother, Sam Clark, Who Died Too Soon

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Foreword

This is a collection of articles that were written between 2006 and 2020. They were all written as a blog called The Prisoner of Bangkok.

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My First Blog Ever: A Thai Compromise

To me, the simple solution to the Thai political turmoil would have both sides simply learn how to compromise.

At this point, they don't seem to be able to compromise about anything. It is either my way or no way. I can't believe that there is no middle ground between their beliefs. As long as they continue not to compromise, the turmoil will continue and Thailand will stagnate. It will become worse and worse and end up as a failed state. Compromise is the only thing that they can save this country from becoming a failure as a country.

For their uncompromised positions, I blame Thaksin for this state of affairs. When he was in power, he was unable to accept anybody else's point of view. If somebody has the temerity to actually criticize him, he would always react in anger. He would call them lazy, crazy or worse. He would also sue them since libel in Thailand is criminal as well as a civil offence. If you lose a libel suit, you not only have to go to pay the winner of the suit; you could go to jail as well. Thaksin could use his tongue as well as the legal system to silence his critics.

Thaksin could not accept criticism because he was a business-

man before he was a politician. As a businessman, you don't have to worry about people criticizing you. If an employee tried to criticize you as the boss, you could always have them fired. Thaksin was so used to having people worship him as president of a company that he was not used to having people criticize him that he could not deal with it as prime minister of the country. He did not have to take another way as a businessman and he brought his uncompromising way to politics. He could not change as a businessman nor could he as a politician. His uncompromising way was built into his personality because he has operated like that for years as a businessman.

The red shirts or the yellow shirts or the current prime minister don't have the excuse that Thaksin had. They can change the way they do politics and compromise. They can find a third way to do things because they should not have forces that shaped Thaksin as a person. They can remove this burden of always be right and learn that you don't always have to be to uncompromising to run a country well. You can learn a different way and find a better way to run a country. Thailand will become a failed country if everybody continues to think their way is the only way to make this country a good country.

A Thai Conquering Hero

In 2008, a crowd composed of regular people and the press were standing in front of the doors of the Suvarnabhumi airport. They had both waiting for hours for a particular man to emerge from those doors. The people were there to see a glimpse of their hero and the press were there to get pictures of their hero and to get hopefully some comments for their respective news outlets.

Finally, the man they had been waiting for emerged from the doors, wearing a black suit, and he waved to the people and to the press. He then falls down on his knees and bowed his head until his lips touched the ground. He briefly kissed the ground and then stood up. The regular people cheered him as he kissed the ground. He went back to the airport. He had accomplished what he had to do.

Who was this person that could such a stir at the airport? It was Thaksin Shinawatra, the former prime minister of Thailand, returning from exile after his government had been overthrown by the military in September of 2006, and everything would change because of his return at that time.

The Democrat's Populist Progress

On November 21st, 2009, the prime minister of Thailand is visiting various provinces near Chang Mai. He is visiting those provinces for the opening of a program that will help country people pay off their loan sharks. This program will hopefully work as past programs have not been successful.

Under the Thaksin administration, they gave a million baht to every village as a way to deal with the loan shark problem. If it did not work. They did pay off the loan sharks. Obviously, they would eventually run out of money and have to ask for new loans from the loan sharks as the program did not continue beyond the million baht. This program done by the current administration will hopefully be a more permanent solution to this loan shark problem.

This program is also a way hopefully for the Democrat Party to get voters from the North and the Northeast. Their traditional power base has been in Bangkok and the South. Thaksin and his people were able to win over these people with programs like the million baht program and the health insurance program where you only had to pay 30 baht for anything that you did

medically. They also gave the people free cows. Thaksin would also literally give money to people on the streets. The Democrats are attempting to win the people of the North and the Northeast by attempting to do a populist program like the Thaksin people.

The 2010s: Panda Pandering

Other than celebrities and the Royal Family of Thailand, the most photographed person or animal this year has to be the first baby panda born in Thailand. Earlier this year, the first baby panda was born in Thailand and the media just went crazy over the little guy. On the nationmultimedia.com website (the website for the Nation newspaper), they have had a picture of the little guy on the website almost every day. Channel 3 still shows videos of the baby panda at least once a week. No creature, event, or person has been so overexposed as this baby panda has been in Thailand.

Corporations have, of course, have latched themselves to the baby panda bandwagon. They have done contests based on this animal. They have put his image on their packaging and their T-shirts. If this was the United States, he would have been on every news network and all sorts of memorabilia would be dedicated to this little panda such as key chains, T-shirts, lunch boxes, cereal boxes, etc. There would be a reality show showing the daily lives of the baby panda and his family. In the States, there would be no limits as to how they would exploit this little guy.

Why This has gone so crazy over this little creature is not known. It just might be that in a country that has been so full of bad news lately; it is just good to have some good news. This can say that they accomplished one thing and that is to have a panda born in captivity, a rare feat that even Americans have had trouble doing.

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