

Key Events (1970-Present)

1976- Military takes over again
1978- New constitution set in place
1980- General Prem Tinsulanonda assumes power
1983- General Prem gives up his military power and heads for civilian government
1988- General Chatchai Choonhavan replaces Prem after elections.
1991- Anand Panyarachun is now the Prime Minister
1992- Chuan Leekpai the leader of the democratic party is now the new Prime Minister
1995- The Government collapses
1997- Asian financial crisis
1999- Economy picks up
2004- Tsunami kills thousands



2005- Thailand redoubles to fight the bird flu
2007- Martial law is lifted in more than half the country
2012- Police have 10,000 strong forces to protect the Prime Minister from overthrow
2015- Bomb attack kills 20 at a Hindu Shrine
2016- Rama IX died, the world's longest reigning monarch

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-15641745>



Culture

The Thai are 95% Buddhist, meaning that they are most often loving and compassionate, because it brings happiness. The Thai practice a greeting they call “The Wai”, or when they press their hands together placing them anywhere between the chest and forehead. This is a sign of respect and is usually directed to the most senior person. This society is considered a hierarchy because of the ranking system. They believe that someone is always above someone else because of either age, job, clothing, appearance, etc... This usually means that a parent is above a child or a teacher to a student. The Thai are very family oriented people and are always very close with them, but also continue to use this hierarchy system, any parent is always above their child. It is customary when invited somewhere to ask about the dress wear, take off shoes if the host has none, never step on the entrance of a home, but over it (young Thai are using this less), and greeting with The Wai. When invited to a home it is not required to bring any gifts, but it is never frowned upon, as long as the wrapping paper is neat and in yellow or gold, rather than darker colors meant for funerals. While dining it is customary to have a fork and spoon, leave a small portion of food on your plate to indicate you are full, never leave rice because it is considered wasteful, and do not get a second helping unless asked. Most of these general rules come directly from Buddhism and are followed strictly.

<http://www.commisceo-global.com/country-guides/thailand-guide>



Thailand Liam D Will P

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Physical Structure

Thailand is 514,000 square kilometers right in the middle of the mainland of Southeast Asia.

Thailand's coastline stretches 3,219 kilometers. The climate is influenced by monsoon winds, meaning most of Thailand has a tropical savannah climate. The country mainly consists of plains, but more less toward the edges.



Thailand is a mix of mountains and plains in the main land. The population of Thailand is 67 million, in 1973 Thailand had an unstable democracy so they reimposed a military dictatorship. With some military leaders being removed, Thailand had a revolution in 1973.

<https://www.tourismthailand.org/About-Thailand/Geography>

Economics

Thailand uses a free-enterprise economy system meaning all businesses are completely separate from the government. These businesses have the ability to change prices at will rather than having the government determine that particular products price. They are just starting to industrialize the country meaning at the moment they depend on exports to continue industrialization. Two Thirds of Thailand's products are exported to other countries. The main products being exported are electronics, agriculture, processed foods, etc... Thailand has always had a strong economy, until recently when global demand decreased for their products, along with tourism because of the coup d'etat, but has been recovering. At the moment they are facing a labor shortage with around 3 million immigrant workers. The government now requires that workers be paid at least 10 dollars a day.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/th.html>

Political Structure

Thailand's current leader is King Bhumibol Adulyadej. He was also known as Rama IX. Rama IX became king when his brother Ananda Mahidol died from a gunshot wound. Thailand's type of government is a constitutional monarchy. A constitutional monarchy is basically a head of the country but his or her powers are inside of a codified constitution. The Sovereign acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride, gives a sense of stability and continuity, and officially recognises success and excellence. Some advantages of this type of government is that there is continuity and there is balanced power. Some disadvantages is that the monarch can not be removed and it makes progression more difficult. The current Prime minister of Thailand is Prayut Chan-o-cha, who runs all the country as more of a President rather than a King, the king is just there to watch.



