Dissertation Title : Carl Schmitt’s Concept of Sovereignty and its Implication for Thai Democracy.

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ABSTRACT

Carl Schmitt is one of the 20th century’s most influential political and legal theorists in Europe. His influence has extended into post-world war II American political thought as well. His connection with the Nazis during WWII gave him a reputation as an advocate of fascism. However, his political thoughts on related concepts such as the conception of Sovereignty, the state of exception, the distinction between friend and enemy and the relationship between state and society, is worth exploring when considered in today—the 21st century Democratic context—as it has invoked a lot of reflection from contemporary thinkers including well-recognized names such as Girgio Agamben, Jürgen Habermas, Jacques Derrida, Slavoj Zizek, and so on.

The notion of Sovereignty is generally recognized as the state’s supreme power within a specific geographical boundary but the location and origin of this power has developed from a single individual into the general will of a collective people. Carl Schmitt gave his account on Sovereignty of the people as ‘he who decides on the exception’ which, in my opinion, is important in relation to the preservation of national sovereignty within the contemporary Democratic era and the current Globalization community.
This dissertation explores the development of the concept of Sovereignty in connection with the conception of Democracy in order to understand how it can help in stabilizing order and peace in our society. Moreover, it describes how Schmitt’s political thoughts including his idea of Sovereignty can be related to Democracy and how his political ideas can be applied to help dealing with problems such as corruption, terrorism and social injustice.

This study ends with a discussion aimed at encouraging readers and thinkers to envision a new way of thinking politically, outside of the Western ‘democratic’ box that entails the ‘capitalist’ economy. From the researcher’s viewpoint, the path to ease all conflicts, protest and political unrests in our society can only be found by the people who could make their sovereign decision to subtract the capitalist economy from the illusion of Western Democracy. It begins with this recognition that Democracy and the capitalist economy are two different concepts that would lead us to the finding of an alternative economic system that could provide sustainable peace and long-term stability to our national and political community in the future years to come.