

Thesis Title: The Buddhist Political Principles and Their Relevance to the Contemporary Thai Politics: A Critical Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Politics generally aims at the interests of the nation state which consists of that of the ruler and the ruled. The most appropriate type among political theories human beings established for their aims as political animals for the contemporary Thai politics is the dhammic political principle contributed by the Buddha in religious dimension. The dhammic political principle can be applied to politico-societal dimension as well due to the fact that this principle elucidates about the process of self adjustment that each individual human being has to go through in order to be with other people and other natural entities harmoniously. Substantially, each individual human being expects to attain happiness, but, due to the fact that one has misunderstandings or ignorance of what contacts to make and the appropriate to do most people follow only personal attitudes due to feeling and emotion. Besides, each individual depends on others because of biological weaknesses so that a political community can be established in order to create a happy atmosphere within each community. Consequently, there are some conflicts with other entities and individual human being. Then suffering occurs within human living situations. The contemporary Thai society is unavoidably in the flux of this conflict as well.

However, based on appropriate circumstances and an environment of dhammic atmosphere contributed by Buddhism, the contemporary Thai society officially administrated by Dr Taksin Chinawatr's government through the governmental policy announced on February 26, 2001, will enable people to attain happiness due to the fact that members of Thai society in status of both the governor and the ruled are familiar with the dhammic principle of governance claimed in *Dasabhiraja-Dhamma* and *Cakkavattivatta Sutta* in particular and the Threefold Training principles in general to avoid unjust governance through transparency and public inquiry as well as enhancing qualities of Thai people in not only economical but also societal and educational dimensions. Besides, the governmental policy does not adapt what Machiavelli contributed to the public which relater to Thai contemporary politics.

