

# APPROACH OF PROMOTE THE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN THAI SOCIETY BY PEACEFUL MEANS

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## Abstract

The study titled "Approach of Promote the Conflict Management in Thai Society by Peaceful Means" aimed to study (1) changes and violent conflict in Thailand which harm to the stability of politic, economy and society while created the values of hatred, violence from generation to generation, and (2) approach of promote the conflict management by peaceful means in Thai society through build up promotion process with peaceful means under strategic development suited with the context of Thai society. The study was qualitative research combined with document analysis and in-depth interviews from population selected from public, leaders and major political player, academics and media then recorded data and analyzed, finally interpreted to be research objective.

The result of research are following:

1. At present, Thai society has faced change circumstances and fierce conflicts included political, the three southern border provinces, natural resources and large government policies conflicts resulted into population dividing obviously. There was masse who came from volunteers and assignment in various regions depends on their preference and admire in political individuals, parties, interest groups and etc. This is the main reason to lower the stability in term of politic, economy, society while create the values of hatred, violence from generation to generation.

2. Approach of promote the conflict management by peaceful means in Thai society through the building of promotion process for strategic peaceful means with the development suited to context of Thai society as guidelines for resolving the current and future conflict and led to the political participation of public, substantial government policy, increased investment capacity both domestic and international, public well-being and sustainable economic.

**Keywords:** the conflict management, peaceful means

## Introduction

Humans have social living because they lived together to serve their basic needs to survive. As the time gone by, they built up pattern of interpersonal practices, since the pattern was recognized and followed by most people in society and became the interpersonal model of practices called "**culture**".

Culture is value system to maintain social order which made individuals live together in peace. Therefore, human nature came from living together is "Assistance", nature made humans have "differences" with different needs and desire. But with the physical and social resources which made "conflict" among humans. There are two kinds of conflicts with 2 definitions : 1. **Positive conflict**: normal process needed to transform the relation between injustice and none peaceful society for example the abolition of slavery in King Rama fifth reign, the equality in feminism and peaceful competition (2) **Negative conflict** : the conflict is related to "violence" for example the people attacked other group, however, the conflict may lead to cooperation such as the founding of the United Nations resulted from World War 2 which was the global violence. While the cooperation was not always gave good outcome if made to exploit others.

[translation from Thai excerpt]

The analysis by governance and political principles, cause of issues can be divided as the mismatch among political concepts, unacceptance others' opinion, power in term of power and benefit changes and etc. Therefore, power became the political bargaining tool because power could gain benefits. The uneven power dividing can cause controversy, for example in political system of Thailand within 84 years of parliamentary system, Thailand has 29 prime ministers, 61 cabinets, 19 constitutions, Rebels for 11 times and revolutionary coup for 13 times.

Peaceful mean is one way to deal with conflict which seems to gain loss as less as possible both in short and long term. But some use peaceful mean under management principle to reduce conflict for better result without using violence. Peaceful mean is not passive or given up method but it is active and requires creativity. It is not occasional tactic but it is strategy which can be implemented regularly. It is credible truth, it is not good in process but can be blended smoothly with process (Kotom Areeya, 2546). Peaceful mean is primary choice as faced with conflict and can solve issues while avoid violence but resolve problems. Approach of Promote the Conflict Management by Peaceful Means can be implemented in many ways and it depends on conflict in any circumstances. This is interested to study Thai social context should be promoted peaceful mean in term of strategic development to solve economic, social and political issues which are more complex than other conflicts.

### **Research Objectives**

1. To study the changes and fierce conflicts in Thai societies which is main reason to lower the stability in term of politic, economy, society while create the values of hatred, violence from generation to generation.
2. To study guidelines of approach of promote the conflict management by peaceful means in Thai society through the building of promotion process for peace with the strategic development suited to context of Thai society.

### **Methodology**

Qualitative research methods is combined with the analysis of documents and data from in-depth interviews from key informants selected by Purposive Sampling. Snowball Sampling has been used after interview for gaining sampling referred from key informants who had knowledge and experience to meet research objectives. Key informant were 1. People 2. Leaders 3. Major role players in politic 4. Academics and 5. Press.

### **Data collection**

1) Documentary study is the preparation and data collection therefore researchers collected data from various sources such as secondary data from other researches and related academic documents, literature, articles published in print media, research, theory and articles.

2) In-depth interview from key informants included people, leaders, major role players in politic, academics and press.

3) Participant & Non Participant Observation from political activities of political parties and its alignment, groups with consensus and dissent political idea and etc.

### **Data analysis and presentation**

Researcher collected information from in-depth interview with public, local leaders from both formal and informal ways, executives of local authorities governing, military, police offices. Data had been checked its accuracy by using 3-way checking method whether the answer can meet the research objectives or not, has reliability and enough details to describe any relationship then read and interpret to make induction.

### **Result**

#### **1. The change and fierce conflict in Thai society**

[translation from Thai excerpt]

A study of Thai social conflicts from the past, conflict between elites ended with the governance \ change on June 24, 1932. Later, there was ideological conflict between Thai state and the Communist Party during 1949-1982, ended with remitted policy under the order no. 66/2523.

Later, there was conflict between dictator and the demand of democracy from people which caused 14 October 1973 and black May 1992 and finally became serious political conflict since late 2005 and developed into conflict between "Yellow shirt" to "Red shirt" until today, with factors, inputs, and activities to promote the peaceful mean in strategic development.

Peaceful mean is method to deal with conflict which is likely to loss as less as possible both short and long term as well as concrete and abstract aspect. But some believed it provides sustain outcome under ethical or religious principles. But some use peaceful mean under management principle to reduce conflict for better result without using violence. Peaceful mean is not passive or given up method but it is active and requires creativity. It is not occasional tactic but it is strategy which can be implemented regularly. It is credible truth, it is not good in process but blend with process, as well.

## **2. Approach of promote the conflict management in Thai society**

For Thailand's context which should promote strategic development of peaceful mean in order to solve issues in term of economic, social and political issues which are more complex as followed

1. Organize the learning stage for conflict management with peaceful means by focus on issues in the community and encourage people to learn and manage conflict with community's way of living under relationship among kinship and friends.

2. Make survey to gather lesson of conflict management in local communities using friendship power and disseminate guidelines for conflicts management by people with peaceful means regularly to create social learning.

3. Support the establishment of committee to discuss and find solution to end social conflicts with peaceful means.

4. Promote the assignment the individual who has ability in professional conflict management with peaceful means.

5. Write the curriculum to promote peaceful means and training programs for government officials. The officials shall be professionals with tools to work with conflict and have alternative solution to decrease violence while enhance the legitimacy of the state in the administration of law fairly.

6. To encourage the formation of learning networks to manage conflict and build up alternative justice between individuals, families, communities, civil society and the public sector.

7. Press shall promote the concept of conflict management by culture with non-violence solutions or "peaceful culture" to be recognized in all societies.

8. Local governments have been encouraged to play an important role as the coordinated center for community cooperation in conflict management and focused on participation in its communication

9. To promote the setting up of "The committee of peaceful living within Southern provinces" (proposal of the National Reconciliation Commission or NRC.) and push the enactment of reconciliation within Southern provinces in Thailand (Act of South under Fire) under NRC proposal.

10. Set up committee to review the legislation may contrary to the peaceful means and request for amendment included enact the measure to promote peaceful mean as major approach to solve conflict from violence in Thai society.

11. Political Development Council support funding to defense public cases with unfair justice from the state or might be called "public funds for justice".

[translation from Thai excerpt]

12. The security agencies are ready to implement measures to resolve conflicts by peaceful means in different methods.

## Discussions

Results showed that there were two types of social conflicts (1) **Inner Conflict** is conflict between individual and social values (2) **Conflict among individual**, individual and group, groups, countries and country groups. Karl Marx believed conflict has always come with changes. It was the basic rule of life, social normal. Conflict began at "economy" is inevitable and led to social conflict. He also believed that people used conflict for social change. Meanwhile, **Georg Simmel** cited that the conflict is interactions among members with has closed relationship. Conflict exists in every organizations, which will lead to social transformation. The result of controversy is "Harmony," (in group) but it may lead to conflict with other group. While scholar like Uthai Hiranto (2523: 218) pointed out that the cause of human conflict were **(1) Comments (2) Practice and (3) Benefits.**

The result showed reasons for conflict in Thai society were (1) mismatch between the political commentary (2) failure to accept other political opinions (3) non-acceptance of the authority of the other party and (4) benefits which led to social conflicts in the past. Since conflict between elites ended with the governance \ change on June 24, 1932. Later, there was ideological conflict between Thai state and the Communist Party during 1949-1982, ended with remitted policy under the order no. 66/2523. Later, there was conflict between dictator and the demand of democracy from people which caused 14 October 1973 and black May 1992 and finally became serious political conflict since late 2005 and developed into conflict between "Yellow shirt" to "Red shirt" to this day, with factors, inputs, and activities to promote the peaceful mean in strategic development.

This is consistent with research by Noppadon Sukonthavit (1996) titled "Thai political parties and local politic" interests and power bases. The study showed local politics are the major political sources for political parties to access the political power, the beginning of power and interests.

There are many methods to manage with political conflicts in Thailand which is not success due to it is the national conflict but not the individual. The conflicts were not limited in group of opposition with political party leaders but it has spread in every society. Even the public was also split into factions. This is consistent with the research by Anchalee Chulapimphan (2003) titled: The conflict management in various issues led to the community development. The result showed conflict management through Majority Ruler is an important factor to empower in dealing with conflict management and suited for political conflict management in Thailand. It may need integration and interpretation suited with current circumstance.

In addition, guidelines for resolving political conflicts in Thailand showed the use of peaceful mean under the rule of law, principles of moral and ethics and public participation in politics. These are principle of democracy. The result consisted with research by Thitinan Thammachot (1999) titled "Ethic Code of Thai political appointees in democratic government" has introduced the concept of ethical code from foreign political appointees and ethics of various professions In the country to study the feasibility and appropriateness. The result showed ethical code of conducts for political appointees as well as organization to direct political appointees to perform their work under ethical code of conduct. Political appointees is considered as role models for public, required moral and ethics which affect to political developments and solve political issues complied with the objective of Constitution.

## Suggestion

Suggestions to guide the solution for political conflict in Thailand with peaceful mean as followed

1. The public sector should be encouraged to participate in politic such as country administrator both political official and government officials work together to lower corruption issues with transparent procedure and verifiable. The authorities should pay attention to public issues at all level include injustice issues, inequality, public participation in government as well as issues of economic inequality. Those problems should be resolved effectively by the government whether they came from political party. The media should

[translation from Thai excerpt]

communicate ethically and perform their functions under professional ethics without using emotion, feeling or fall under control of others.

2. There are many approaches to resolve the conflict with integrity in all levels, started from dividing group of conflict included public and administrators then making an analysis of design process for conflict solutions in each group. This require a different methods to achieve maximum efficiency people should learn the extent of using their right for demonstration, protests for fairness and justice demand under legal extent but not violate the rights of others and made trouble in society. Because this can be reason for government to use violence.

3. The politic solution shall be made sincerely with fairness and without exploit from others. The important thing is should cultivate the better understanding of democracy in education system to youth, students with government support. Also public participation included academics, experts about political conflict and major agencies related to conflict management such as Ministry of Defense, Ministry of the Interior, The Justice Department took major part in a political conflict solution.

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