

## **Political Economic of Development of Thailand**

The study of the political economy of development is to improve the country's production and trade and their relation to laws. Each country has a different social and political culture that affects the economy's growth. Some political systems and structures are faulty causing complication in the growth of the country. For country's to find growth, economic growth is important. To find economic growth, social and political culture and rules and regulation should be improved for the benefit of the country.

Thailand is located in Southeast Asia. They are in the tropical zone, where the temperature is around 30 degree celsius with humidity around 79.9%, ranging from 74% in January and 85% in September. The country is great for cultivation all year round. Everyone is able to cultivate crops and feed themselves all year round, this is why Thai's have a saying in water there's fish in the field there's rice. The expression is supposed to show how rich and fertile our land is. Even though Thailand has everything to sustain life it is still not a developed country, and there are still a lot of inequality in Thailand. With a population of 69.43 million, 9.8% of Thai are living below the poverty line. While the richest 1% of Thai's owned 66.9% of the country's wealth. 50% of the poorest Thais had 1.7% (25 million) of the nation's wealth, and 70% (35 million) control 5% of the nation's wealth. What created the gap between rich and poor in Thailand is the social and political culture that creates inequality.

Thai's have pride or saksi that hinders them. Honor or kiat of being high and mighty of Thai people makes them self indulge in their egotistic. Thai people have too much pride that they wouldn't do something for the benefit of others. They would rather lose their life than lose their face. The more Thai's are praise and applaud, the more they have honor and pride which would restrain them. Thai can lose anything except their face. If they were to be given a ticket for a minor incident, any wealthy Thais would use their connections to show power and

authority. Having connections with someone with authority would give them free pass on anything, this abuse of power broke Thai's social and political culture.

Every wealthy individual in Thailand has authority, influence and respect. With these factors they could get away with anything. Any wrongdoing that they might have done is neglected because no one wants to make them their enemy. This abuse of power in Thailand has turned into a culture where connections will help each other for individual interest. People without authority, influence and respect are just citizens without power. Any of their wrongdoings will not be neglected by law. Examples of abuse of power could be found anywhere in Thailand. These social and political cultures affect the country and are oppressing Thailand's ability to grow. Thailand has been in the status of a developing country for many years, and because of corruption and abuse of power the status has not changed.

One of Thai's social and political cultures that is inappropriate is climbing the hierarchy. If one wants to be in a position of power they have to build connections and donate money so that they could climb the hierarchy faster. If one is born into a prestigious family they have an easier time to gain ranks and climb hierarchy while others have to work hard to climb Thai's hierarchy. Even unqualified people who are born in a prestige house can be ranked higher than those who are qualified. Because of these traditions and culture that Thai people have set, the country doesn't grow. There is a belief in Thai culture that the third generation will ruin what the first generation have achieved. This belief stems from the fact that unqualified people with prestige have been put into power that they themselves cannot contain and control. Why are these unqualified people in the position of power? That is because of authority, influence and respect runs in the family.

Thailand's social and political culture is ruining the system and there is a lot of corruption that is going on. With authority, influence and respect, wealthy individuals look for personal

interest and do illegal acts for their own benefits. Because of all the corruption and illegal acts that happen in Thailand, it causes the gap of wealth between poor and rich. The rich are taking advantage of the poor, without the poor even knowing. Because of this social and political culture that Thai have built, it is making the rich grow richer while the poor stays poor. Wealth inequality in Thailand is a big problem and people should find ways to close the wealth gap.

One of many solutions to decrease the wealth gap in Thailand is that rich people should pay more income taxes to subsidize the poor. The act of taxing the rich and subsidizing the poor will help reduce the inequality in the income gap. This will help a lot of people in the country to live their life free of fear. Many rich individuals have ways they can decrease their tax payment since they have businesses and financial analysts to help with their tax payment. Even though the rich pay the highest income tax in the country when we look at the over tax payment that they have to pay they actually pay less than middle income workers. Many millionaires and billionaires around the world agree that they should pay more income tax. For example, Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Mark Cuban, etc. ask to pay more income tax since in comparison to other taxpayers they pay the least amount of taxes. By taxing the rich and subsidizing the poor this helps reduce wage gaps, and will help the economy grow. People will be able to earn more and afford more things. Poor people would be able to afford better education which will help the country grow. This policy will help poor grow out of poverty.

Some people might not like the idea of giving their hard earned money to someone else, some will be taken advantage of and others will not benefit from this act. It will be more difficult for people to increase their wealth and many people in between rich and middle class people will not like the idea of getting more taxed. Many people have many different opinions on this topic, but the rich should be taxed more than others if we want equality. As of right now there is a lot of inequality in many different countries including Thailand and financial inequality is a big

problem that causes breaks between citizens. If everyone is paying taxed at an equal rate then what makes people rich or poor is their working performance. With all of the information about the advantages and disadvantages of increasing income taxes for the rich, I think that it is better for the country to increase income taxes.

Thai people have political and economic freedom that other nations may not have. Every Thai citizen has the right to vote when they are 18 years old or above. They have the freedom to make a political decision, but because of the status gap between the rich and the poor, it causes Thailand's political system to be corrupted. Poor Thai people have the right to vote, but they have been persuaded by people with power. Some people sell their own votes to political parties for their own benefits. The difference between rich and poor is very significant in Thailand. This causes corruption and people seek money for power. Thai's found that money rules and that money is power. Thailand's corruption and bribery has been going on for years, that it turned into a tradition or a culture within politicians, if they want to survive in this line of work they need money. If they want to climb the political hierarchy faster, they just need to "donate" money. For one to gain power in Thailand they have to bribe authority and make connections. But because money solves every problem in Thailand rich individuals are less scared of laws. The inequality within Thailand is causing many poor citizens to be taken advantage of. The money that should've been used to support rural areas is instead going into politicians pockets. Due to the corrupted nature of Thai people, many poor individuals have less political freedom and economic freedom. Poor have been persuaded into voting for those who will give them money, while in fact they are receiving less money than they should be getting. These cause half of the Thai population to not have both political freedom and economic freedom. Many of Thai's are not educated about investment and they look for fast money. The fastest money that people know is either illegal act or gambling. Thai's have this ideology that they only need one stable

job to support themselves, even though there are many different ways to create passive income. Many Thai's also not educated in tax and discounts that could lower their cost of living, if only these knowledge could be spread across the country many Thai's middle class would have more financial freedom. Inequality and corruption that occur in Thailand is burdening to citizens, to lessen the burden citizens and government shouldn't encourage corruption. Government should look for growth and give lower class citizens an opportunity to reduce inequality. Political freedom should be encouraged and changed before economic freedom since all of the economic freedom problems in Thailand are caused by lack of political freedom.

For Thailand to improve and find growth in political economy, they should rebuild their social and political culture so that there will be less corruption and less illegal acts being neglected by the law. Poor should be able to find a stable income that would feed them and their family. Rich should not take advantage of others since they already have authority, influence and respect. Fixing Thailand's culture will help reduce wealth inequality, in which will help Thai economy to grow. Thailand already is showing growth throughout many years, but what is hindering Thailand's growth is Thais themselves. If Thailand were able to abolish the culture that has been going on for years, we will finally grow into a developed country. There are many solutions to this problem but what Thais are not doing is taking these solutions into actions. For Thailand's political economy growth corruption should be frowned upon.