

Tyranny, Legitimacy & Social Welfare Resolution for Thailand

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Politics as Social (Economic) Choice

- Pro-Thaksin versus Anti- Thaksin, democracy versus non-democracy and royalist versus republican are examples of the **former** that can lead to more violence and division.
- The latter is concentrated more on what changes in the existing set of rules defining the political order that all citizens can agree upon.
- Can we afford free universal healthcare and education? Or is a co-payment system more sustainable.
- Both may be subject to different interpretation for different political norms, or may be too impractical to follow for social welfare enhancement. Naturally, there are trade-offs to consider for all decision making.
- What is just and fair depends on people, culture and the path of political and economic development.

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"Politics" by Aristotle (b. 384 – d. 322 BC)

The 6 guides for the rulers (*Politics* I.7) are

1. One Ruler: Kingship vs Tyranny
2. Few Rulers: Aristocracy vs Oligarchy
3. Many Rulers: Democracy vs Chaos (Correct vs Deviant, Weakness & Strength, Pro & Con)

Plato long warned that **democracy** might result in the **tyranny of the majority**.

Aristotle claimed that rule might best be carried out by **benevolent elites**, while **democracy** is the least evil form of government.

General Theory of Constitutions & Citizenship.
(*Politics* III.9.1280a7-22).

- Definition of Citizenship & Its qualification.

Politics as Social (Economic) Choice

- The basic social condition is that **government exists because** people disagree more often than not.
- **Government** in essence is supposed to enhance intellectual gain **for long-term peace and prosperity**, through its people exchanging ideas, concerns and wishes.
- Discussion must be focused on the "**margins**" of variation in political institutions, not on the "**totality**" of such institutions.

"Politics" by Aristotle (b. 384 – d. 322 BC)

Aristotle turns to arguments for and against the **different constitutions** which he views as **different applications** of the principle of **distributive justice** (*Politics* III.9.1 280a7-22)

Everyone agrees that **justice** involves treating equal persons equally, and treating unequal persons unequally.

But they do not agree on **the standard** by which individual are deemed to be equally (or unequally) meritorious or deserving.

Globalization & Trilemma : Political Econ. Views (Hoontrakul 99)



- 1) **Capitalism:** - a belief in *inequality* - is a "free market" based on rational self-interest individual.
- 2) **Democracy:** - a belief in *equality* – is a political process based on one man, one vote with guaranteed freedom of speech & civil liberty.
- 3) **Social Welfare:** maximization should be the main objective of any government. State of social welfare is invented to make capitalism & democracy ideals *compatible*.

Conclusion



- The **trinity sources of legitimacy** (as summarised in the graphic chart, left) are interactively derived from information, tastes and the culture of society.
- The **social-political-economic problem** is a problem of the utilisation of knowledge that is not given to any mortal in its totality.
- **Democracy without constitutional liberalism** (e.g. the rule of law, protection of property and liberty, and the jurisdiction of collective choice) **is the most terrifying kind of tyranny.**

Trinity Sources of Legitimacy



1. **Political Process & Democracy:** The wishes of the majority may not be a full reflection of the whole of Thai society. Is there such a things as the majority ?
2. **Experts & Bureaucracy:** Without their skill, experience & intellect, mob rule & the average wit of the mob will determine the fate of our nation.
3. **Markets:** fostering economic growth & allow entrepreneurs to show their virtue & spirit. Markets, even not so perfect, may provide a self- adjusting process that is a useful social welfare enhancement mechanism if operated effectively & efficiently.

Reference - for further reading



Aristotle (b 384 – d. 322 BC) "Politics", See more details at
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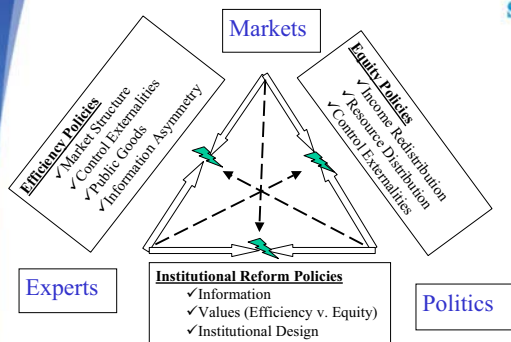
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*Freely downloadable at www.Pongsak.Hoontrakul.com

Trinity Sources of Legitimacy by Munger (06)



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