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ATTITUDE TOWARD THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM OF
THAI STUDENTS ATTENDING UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

by

Thira Rojanapornpant

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

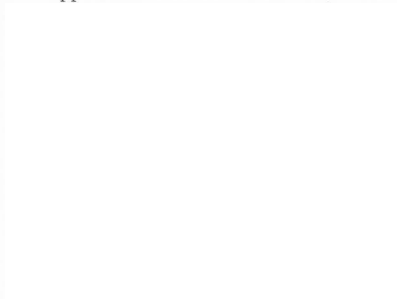
of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

Political Science

Approved:



UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, Utah

1970

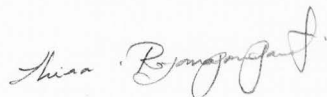
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Thira Rojanapornpant

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ABSTRACT

Attitude Toward the American Political System of Thai Students Attending

Utah State University

by

Thira Rojanapornpant, Master of Science

Utah State University, 1970

Major Professor: Professor Calvin W. Hiibner
Department: Political Science

The purpose of this research was to measure the attitudes of Thai students at Utah State University toward the American political system, favorably or unfavorably.

The method of this study was an opinion or attitude survey. Copies of the questionnaires were personally delivered to and collected from Thai students by the writer. Ninety-four questionnaires or 97.92 percent of the total ninety-six were returned.

The conclusion of this study indicated that: Thai students' attitudes toward the American political system were more favorable than unfavorable. Moreover, the period of time spent in the United States caused little difference in change of their attitude. The respondents absolutely do not desire to change the Thai political system to the American system although they thought well of the American system.

(87 pages)

CHAPTER I

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

The problem

The problem of this study was to measure the attitude of Thai students in Utah State University toward the American Political System, favorably or unfavorably. The attitude of the respondents toward the American Political System prior to their coming to the United States and the change of attitude that has occurred during their stay in the country was emphasized.

Thai students attending Utah State University

Today western civilization has had an increasingly influential effect on Thailand. Education, politics and culture are developing along patterns seen in the United States. Thai graduates in the field of Political Science and various other educational fields have played leading roles in the crown country. They also have contributed to Thailand in both general and specific programs. Therefore, many Thai students have manifested a strong desire to study in the United States for higher academic degrees.

In recent years, the number of Thai students coming to study in the United States has increased every year. At the present time more Thai students are being educated in the United States than in any other country.

At Utah State University, the Foreign Student Adviser has records of Thai students from 1953 to the present. In 1953, there were only five students at the University. This number increased to twenty-one in 1958 to 1967 about twenty-five to thirty-five Thai students studied at Utah State. The numbers then rose sharply to sixty in the spring quarter 1968, and to ninety-eight in fall quarter of 1969. In January of 1970 there are ninety-seven Thai students at Utah State University.

The Thai students at Utah State University may be classified as:

- (1) Thai Government-sponsored students.
- (2) Students sponsored by foreign governments, agencies and institutions.
- (3) Students who are unsupported or are supported by their parents.

The Thai Government has administered a program in which government officials may be granted official leave for training and studying with pay. This study identified forty-one government officials in this Program. Practically all aimed at getting advanced degrees, because an advanced degree automatically brings the holder a better salary, more prestige, and professional advancement.

Definition of Terms

Thai Students: means students who were studying at Utah State University, not including Thai students in other parts of the United States or students in high school.

Attitude: means Thai students' statements of belief, emotional, feeling, notion, idea, prejudice or bias and evaluation.

The Younger Thai Students: means the students under 25 years old.

Thai Political System: means the Democratic System which has the King under the constitution, as chief of the state. The King of Thailand is a non-elected person.

The American Political System: means the Democratic System which has the president as a chief of state. The president is the elected person.

Delimitation

This study was limited to Thai students at Utah State University. A further limitation was placed on the attitude toward life in the United States in that only opinions concerning the American Political System and other facts of American life were surveyed.

This research began in 1970 with a total of ninety-six enrolled Thai students at Utah State University.

Hypotheses

(1) Thai students' attitude toward the American Political System is more favorable than unfavorable.

(2) Thai male students are more interested in politics than Thai female students.

(3) Thai students in the Department of Political Science have a more favorable attitude toward the American Political System than students in other Departments.

(4) The younger Thai students have a more favorable attitude toward the American Political System than older students.

(5) The longer they stay in the United States the more favorable their attitude will be.

(6) No matter how much the American Political System is favored, they do not prefer to change the Thai Political System to be more similar to the American Political System.

(7) Thai students' attitudes toward the American Education System are more favorable than unfavorable.

(8) Thai students at Utah State University prefer the Democratic System to the Communist System.

(9) The Thai students' attitudes toward the King of Thailand are not more favorable than unfavorable.

(10) The Buddhist religion still has a great influence over the Thai students regardless of how long they have stayed in the United States.

Methodological procedure

The writer used an opinion or attitude survey as a procedure to find out the attitudes for this study. The number of Thai students in the winter quarter (1969-1970) was ninety-six. This number included six students

who had registered for the winter quarter and later transferred to study at another university.

The eight-page questionnaire was composed of thirty-six questions which were divided into two parts. In part one, the questions were numbered from 1 through 14. Each respondent selected one choice for each question. Questions 1-14 were intended to show general information about each Thai student participating in the survey. In part two each respondent made one choice of five which were: (1) strongly agree, (2) agree, (3) no opinion, (4) disagree, (5) strongly disagree.

The respondents were divided into two groups, the Department of Political Science and those who registered in other departments, for the purpose of showing that the Political Science students group had a more favorable attitude toward the American Political System than students in other departments. Respondents in the various tables shown in Chapter III were classified according to sex for convenience in interviewing and for tabulating results of the survey. In addition, sex was used as a control variable to show that females were less interested in politics than males.

The population and the data collection

The population of this study was the Thai students at Utah State University. The list of the Thai students was obtained from the office of the Foreign Student Adviser, and from the Thai Student Association in Utah.

There were, altogether, ninety-six Thai students; sixty-nine male and twenty-seven females.

The questionnaire, each with a letter of introduction of the writer and listing of the purposes of the study, was approved by the writer's Chairman of the Committee of Thesis. Copies of the questionnaire were personally delivered to and collected from Thai students by the writer himself. Ninety-four questionnaires were returned. This meant that 97.92 percent of the questionnaires were returned.

Organization of this study

Chapter I contains a statement of problem, Thai students attending Utah State University, definition of terms, delimitation, hypotheses, methodological procedure, the population and the data collection, and the organization of study.

Chapter II gives a brief review of literature.

Chapter III records facts and the comparison about sex, age, religion, marital status, residence and length of stay in the United States.

Chapter IV presents data and information concerning the attitude and opinion of Thai students in the Departments of Political Science, and students in other Departments toward the American Political System, favorably or unfavorably. Also made was a comparison between these two groups of students. The general attitude of the Thai students toward the American Education System and the comparison of the Democratic and the Communist System is also given.

Chapter V is concerned with attitudes and opinions of Thai students in Utah State University toward the American Political System, favorably or unfavorably by sex, age, and the length of stay in the United States.

Chapter VI contains the attitude of the Thai students toward the King of Thailand and Buddhism.

Chapter VII is the summary and conclusion of this thesis.

CHAPTER II

THE REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Studies on the attitudes of foreign students toward the United States have been conducted by many people. A short review of some of the studies that have been made is presented here.

Jean Barry, S. J., studied the attitude of Thai students in areas of religious beliefs, views on education, and attitude on courtship in the United States. He found that Thai students expressed the desire to see the Buddhist monks change their way of life to meet the need of the modern times. In educational values, change was in the direction of a greater valuation of knowledge and open-mindedness. This trend was probably not specific to international education but to the natural outcome of prolonged academic training in general. Finally, the influence of the American pattern of dating has increased among the students. This influence has created their desire for greater individual freedom of physical relationships between sex before marriage.¹ Basher A. Aridi studied the attitudes of fifty-four Asiatic students who were in Utah State University. He surveyed their attitudes toward the United States and the educational system of Utah State University. He found that their attitudes toward Utah State

¹Jean Barry, S. J., The Thai Students in the United States: A Study in the Attitude Change (New York: Columbia University Press, 1966), pp. 221-223.

University educational system were favorable, but their attitudes toward the United States were not favorable because of differences in culture and racial and religious prejudices. Their attitudes toward the United States were effected by their experiences in Logan to a great degree.²

Rosalea Ann Schonbar studied 157 students' attitudes toward the Communist system. She found that in an intelligent, educated group, the degree of antipathy toward Communists in this country was not so great as to obscure the favoring of rather drastic policies which would deprive Communists of making a living, save, perhaps in government service. The fact that this group was composed almost wholly of individuals with admitted conservative backgrounds and learning made this finding the more significant.³ Educational Review, Inc. , surveyed twelve American colleges concerning the students' political and religious attitudes between 1959-1963. They found that students from poorer backgrounds tend to be more anti-Communist than students from wealthier backgrounds. Jewish students tend to be less anti-Communist than Christian students. Non-believers are still less likely to be anti-Communist. The American Negro student tends to favor anti-Communist regime. Moreover, Catholic students tend to be more concerned with

² Basher A. Aridi, "Attitude of the Asiatic Students Attending the Utah State Agricultural College toward the United States, Logan, and the U. S. A. C. ," (unpublished M. S. thesis, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, 1953), p. 42.

³ Rosalea Ann Schonbar, "Students' Attitudes toward Communists," The Journal of Psychology, XXVII (1949), 51-77.

religion than with politics--Protestants, Jews, and non-believers tend to be more concerned with politics than with religion.⁴

R. Heathcote Heindel studied attitudes of British school children toward the American Democratic System. He found that 82.4 percent of respondents were strongly unfavorable toward the American political system. They preferred the Democratic type of political system being used in England.⁵ Ralph H. Gundlach studied the political and economic ideas from 290 college students in 1935. He found that the President and the Supreme Court were considered all right. About half of the group considered the United States Government in general was possible, a third held that it was inefficient. Congress was simply dull. The State Legislature was primarily stupid, and probably corrupt. Big business was bad. Labor was doubtfully all right, but many thought of laborers as slaves, dumb and leaderless.⁶ Joseph Veroff studied the attitude of 245 African students who had become more tolerant of American informality and had become more sensitive to American insincere outgoingness. Their attitudes toward Africa itself were of more interest in nationalistic ideas and less involved in international identifications. They seemed interested in

⁴Educational Review, Inc., "A Survey of the Political and Religious Attitudes of American College Students," National Review, XV (October 8, 1963), 284-285.

⁵R. Heathcote Heindel, "American Attitudes of British School Children," School and Society, XLVI (December 25, 1937), 838-840.

⁶Ralph H. Gundlach, "Confusion among Undergraduates in Political and Economic Ideas," A Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, XXXII (1937), 357-361.

becoming involved in challenging risks.⁷ Roy E. Horton studied the attitudes of 18,052 senior students in 103 high schools relating to freedom, specifically beliefs in the Bill of Rights. He found that American high school seniors did not agree with the freedom guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.⁸ Richard T. Morris interviewed 318 foreign students from several countries, who were staying in the United States, concerning the freedom of speech, thought and freedom of association in the United States. The investigation showed that the majority of the foreign students liked the freedom stated in the Bill of Rights.⁹

Another investigation about these attitudes toward the United States was done by George V. Coelho. He studied the attitude of Indian students and found that newly arrived students were more favorable than unfavorable. The students who had been in this country from three months to three years were about equally divided between favorable and unfavorable. Those who had been in the United States four years or more showed a very slight increase in favorable response.¹⁰ Beals and Humphrey studied fifty-two Mexican students

⁷ Joseph Veroff, "African Students in the United States," Journal of Social Issues, XIX (July, 1963), 59.

⁸ Roy E. Horton, "American Freedom and the Value of Youth," in Anti-Democratic Attitudes in American School, ed. by Hermann Henry Remmers (Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 1963), p. 43.

⁹ Richard T. Morris, The Two-Way Mirror: National Status in Foreign Students' Adjustment (Minneapolis, Minnesota: The University of Minnesota Press, 1960), p. 71.

¹⁰ George V. Coelho, Changing Images of America: A Study of Indian Students' Perceptions (Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press of Glencoe, 1958), p. 29-48.

in the United States concerning the Democratic system of the United States. He found that most students admired the political system of the United States particularly in the conduct of the government, the widespread and effective participation in the political processes the conduct of campaigns and elections, and the orderly evidence of functioning political democracy. Again, criticisms of American democracy usually centered upon such social aspects as the treatment of minority groups. Many students also saw serious threats to the future of American political democracy.¹¹

Research of Selltiz and others on the freedom of speech in the United States among foreign students showed that half of the respondents said there was practically no limitation on the freedom of speech in the United States; the remainder said there was little limitation or some limitation. About three-fifths of the students expressed approval of the situation as they saw it. Again, the study of Selltiz and others showed that the liberty of the individual was most frequently mentioned as a strong point. The next most frequently mentioned strong points were the political system and equality among people. The most frequently mentioned weak point was discrimination against minority groups.¹²

¹¹Ralph L. Beals and Norman D. Humphrey, No Frontier to Learning: The Mexican Students in the United States (Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 1953), pp. 84-85.

¹²Claire Selltiz, June R. Christ, Joan Havel, and Stuart W. Cook, Attitudes and Social Relations of Foreign Students in the United States (Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 1960), pp. 172-173.

CHAPTER III
 RECORD FACTS ABOUT THE THAI STUDENTS ATTENDING
 UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

The Thai students included in this study who studied at Utah State University numbered ninety-four, sixty-seven males and twenty-seven females. The details of Thai students are recorded below.

Sex and age

Table 1 contains a distribution of the respondents by age and sex. The population includes sixty-seven males (71.3 percent) and twenty-seven females (28.7 percent). Approximately 69 percent of these Thai students are over 25 years of age. Therefore, the number of various age groups were placed as can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of Thai students in various age groups by sex

| Sex | Age | | | | Total |
|--------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Under 21 | 21-25 | 25-30 | Over 30 | |
| Male | - | 16 (17%) | 28 (29.8) | 23 (24.5%) | 67 (71.3%) |
| Female | 2 (2.1%) | 11 (11.7%) | 10 (10.8%) | 4 (4.2%) | 27 (28.7%) |

Marital status and age

Table 2 contains a breakdown of the marital status of the Thai students by sex and age. At the time of this study (Winter Quarter, 1970) 36 percent or thirty-four of the Thai students were married (35.8 percent of the men and 37 percent of the women). The questionnaire showed that most of the students over age 25 were married, and only one woman over 30 years old was not married, as compared with nine of the men in the same age group.

Table 2. Marital status of Thai students by age

| Age | Male | | Female | |
|----------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Single | Married | Single | Married |
| Under 21 | - | - | 2 (2.1%) | - |
| 21-25 | 15 (15.9%) | 1 (1.1%) | 9 (9.6%) | 2 (2.1%) |
| 25-30 | 19 (20.5%) | 9 (9.6%) | 5 (5.2%) | 5 (5.2%) |
| Over 30 | 9 (9.6%) | 14 (14.8%) | 1 (1.1%) | 3 (3.2%) |
| Total | 43 (46%) | 24 (25.5%) | 17 (18%) | 10 (10.5%) |

Field of study and sex

According to the data of the questionnaire, the chief field of study of the Thai students at Utah State University is the College of Social Science, specifically, the Department of Political Science (48.1 percent of the students in the College of Social Science and 44.7 percent of the students in the Department of Political Science). The second group of the students were in Engineering, Business Administration, and Education. Science, Humanities and Arts, and Agriculture are at the bottom of scale, one for Science, four for Humanities and Arts, and six for Agriculture from the total of the students who responded.

Table 3. Number of the Thai students in various fields of study by sex

| College of Major | Sex | | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Male | Female | |
| Agriculture | 6 (6.3%) | - | 6 (6.3%) |
| Business Administration | 8 (8.5%) | 6 (6.3%) | 14 (14.8%) |
| Education | - | 9 (9.6%) | 9 (9.6%) |
| Engineering | 15 (15.9%) | - | 15 (15.9%) |
| Humanities and Arts | 2 (2.1%) | 2 (2.1%) | 4 (4.2%) |
| Science | - | 1 (1.1%) | 1 (1.1%) |
| Social Science | 36 (38.5%) | 9 (9.6%) | 45 (48.1%) |

Degree and sex

Table 4 shows the degree sought by the respondents, of which 67 percent were graduate students. This was a very high proportion; the result should be explained by the fact that, most of the Thai students received their Bachelor's degree from Thailand and continue to work for their Master's degree in the United States.

Table 4. Degree sought by Thai students in Utah State University by sex

| Sex | B. A. or B. S. | M. A. or M. S. | Ph. D. |
|--------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Male | 18 (19.1%) | 49 (52.2%) | - |
| Female | 12 (12.8%) | 14 (14.8) | 1 (1.1%) |
| Total | 30 (31.9%) | 63 (67%) | 1 (1.1%) |

Religion and sex

The religious affiliation of the Thai students at Utah State University is described in Table 5. Ninety-six and seven-tenths percent of the Thai students here were Buddhist, and 3.3 percent were not Buddhist.

Table 5. Religious affiliation of Thai students at Utah State University by sex

| Sex | Religion | |
|--------|---------------|--------------|
| | Buddhist | Non-Buddhist |
| Male | 65 (69.1%) | 2 (2.2%) |
| Female | 26 (27.6%) | 1 (1.1%) |
| Total | 91 (96.7%) | 3 (3.3%) |

Residence and sex

In Table 6 is the type of residence in which Thai students lived in Logan. The majority of the students rented an apartment (50 percent). The reported showed that more men lived off campus than women. For the women, a dormitory seemed to be more popular than for men. One of the students reported that she was living with an American family.

Table 6. Type of residence of Thai students at Utah State University by sex

| Sex | Dormitory | Apartment | Rooming house | American family | |
|--------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | | | American family | Other |
| Male | 17 (18.1%) | 34 (26.2%) | 11 (11.7%) | - | 5 (5.2%) |
| Female | 9 (9.6%) | 13 (13.8%) | 2 (2.1%) | 1 (1.1%) | 2 (2.1%) |
| Total | 26 (27.7%) | 47 (50%) | 13 (13.8%) | 1 (1.1%) | 7 (7.4%) |

Length of stay and sex

Table 7 includes the length of stay of the Thai students in this country, divided into five categories. The first category identifies those who had been in this country for six months or less. The second category is six months to one year, the third is one year to two years, the fourth is two years to three years. The last category includes all those who had three years or more in the United States. From the report, about 44.7 percent of the Thai students had been in the United States between one year to two years. This is explained by the fact that most of the Thai students received the Bachelor degree from Thailand and came to work for their Master's degree; moreover, government officials are allowed to stay abroad only two years.

Table 7. Number of Thai students staying various lengths of time in the United States by sex

| Sex | Length of stay | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Less than 6 months | 6 months to 1 year | 1 year to 2 years | 2 years to 3 years | Over 3 years |
| Male | 9 (9.6%) | 7 (7.4%) | 29 (30.9%) | 13 (13.8%) | 9 (9.6%) |
| Female | 3 (3.2%) | 4 (4.2%) | 13 (13.8%) | 4 (4.2%) | 3 (3.2%) |
| Total | 12 (12.8%) | 11 (11.6%) | 42 (44.7%) | 17 (18%) | 12 (12.8%) |

CHAPTER IV
ATTITUDES OF THAI STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS
TOWARD THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

In Chapter I it was stated that the purpose of this study is to find out the attitude of Thai students at Utah State University toward the American political system, favorable or unfavorable. The materials in this chapter are the outcome of the survey of ninety-six Thai students which may be divided into two groups; one is the students in the Department of Political Science, and the other group is the students in other departments. The scope of the study in this chapter covers the following subjects.

1. Attitude of the Thai students in the Department of Political Science and the Thai students in other departments toward the American political system, favorable or unfavorable.

2. The comparison between these two groups of students concerning the reactions.

3. General attitude of the Thai students.

Attitude toward the American political system.

Comparison of the attitude of the Thai students between the Democratic and the Communist systems.

Attitude of Thai students in the Department of
Political Science and Thai students in other
departments

Under this heading, we divided the number of Thai students into two groups: one is the students in the Department of Political Science, and the other is the students in the other departments. The objective of separating the groups was to compare the attitudes of these two groups of students. Thai students in the Political Science Department had studied politics and government prior to their coming to the United States and continued to study Political Science at Utah State University. Students in other departments had not studied government and politics in Thailand very much, so their knowledge of politics and government is assumed to be more limited than the other group.

Table 8. Number of Thai students in the Department of Political Science and other by sex

| Sex | Political Science | Other |
|--------|-------------------|---------------|
| Male | 33 (35.5%) | 34 (36.2%) |
| Female | 9 (9.6%) | 18 (18.9%) |
| Total | 42 (44.7%) | 52 (55.3%) |

There are forty-two Thai students in the Department of Political Science and fifty-two in various other departments enrolled at Utah State University for the Winter Quarter. The purpose of this section is to investigate the attitude of

these two groups of students toward the American political system. There are five questions dealing with this section.

In number 14, the question stated: "In my opinion, the political system that is best is: The Thai political system or the American political system." The result of Political Science students showed 73.8 percent of the students reported that the American political system is best, while 7.1 percent reported that the Thai political system is best, two students said "neither one is best," and only one student stated that "the Thai political system is best for Thailand and the American political system is best for the United States." Five students (11.9 percent) failed to answer this question; the data showed that most of the Thai students in the Department of Political Science said "the American political system is best." (See Figure 1.)

Meanwhile, we were looking for the respondents in other departments. The results were, 65.4 percent agreed that the American political system is best, 15.4 percent agreed that the Thai political system is best. Meanwhile, 19.2 percent failed to circle the answer. Nevertheless, the majority of the students reported that "the American political system is best." (See Figure 2.)

Question number 17 stated: "I came to study in the United States because I like the American political system." The objective of this question was to find out their opinion before they came to study in the United States. The results of this question of the Political Science students were stated as follows:

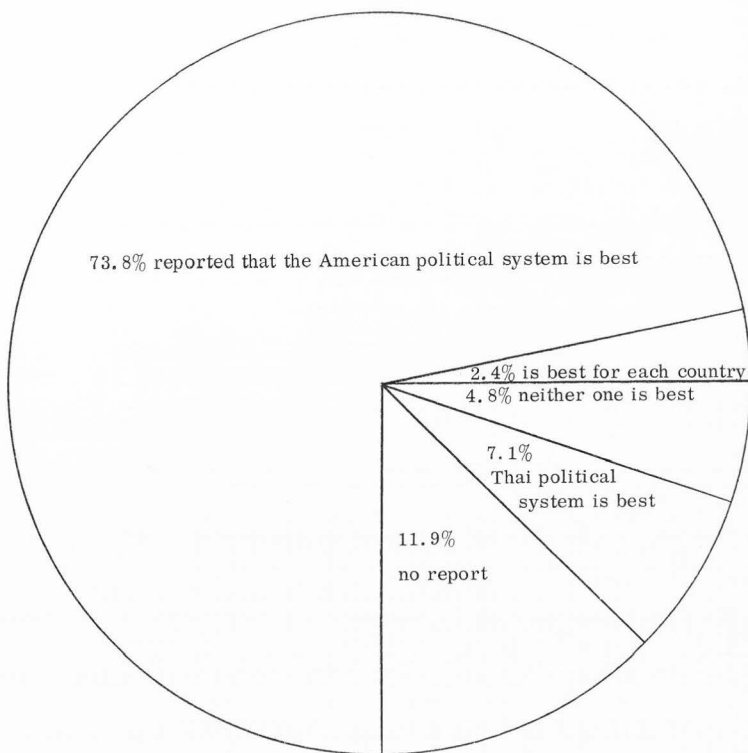


Figure 1. Percentage response of Thai students in the Department of Political Science concerning political systems

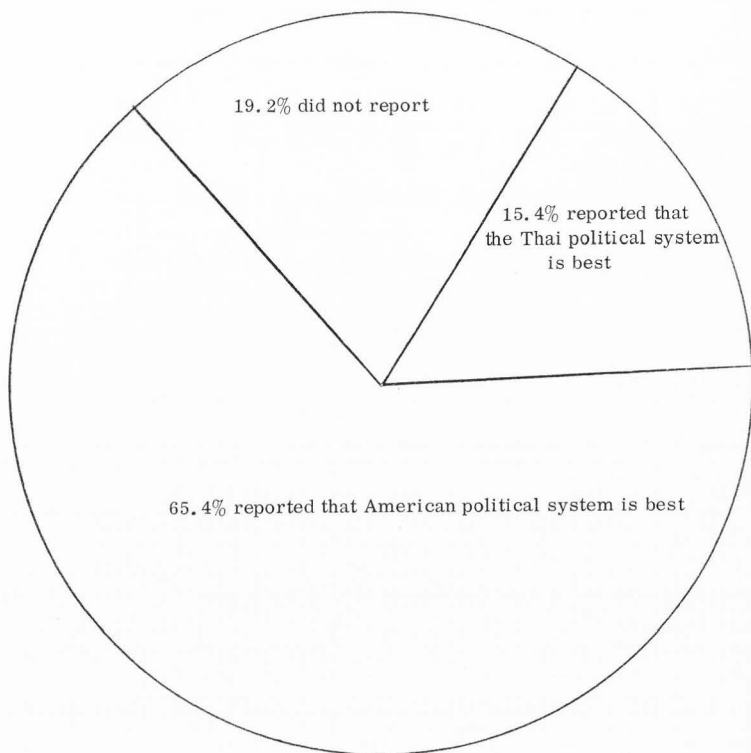


Figure 2. Percentage of Thai students in various departments and the political system.

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Strongly agree | = | 9.5 percent |
| Agree | = | 33.3 percent |
| No opinion | = | 28.6 percent |
| Disagree | = | 21.5 percent |
| Strongly disagree | = | 7.1 percent (See Figure 3.) |

The percentages above show that before the students came to study in the United States, most of them in Political Science liked the American political system. The data showed that 42.8 percent or eighteen persons agreed and strongly agreed while 28.6 percent or twelve persons disagreed and strongly disagreed. Also, 28.6 percent or twelve persons had no opinion.

At the same time, the results of the respondents in other departments were:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Strongly agree | = | 1.9 percent |
| Agree | = | 13.5 percent |
| No opinion | = | 53.8 percent |
| Disagree | = | 30.8 percent |
| Strongly disagree | = | 0 (See Figure 4.) |

These data showed most of the students disagreed or had no opinion on the statement. They did not like the American political system, they did not understand the American system because of their field of study, or they did not care about the American political system.

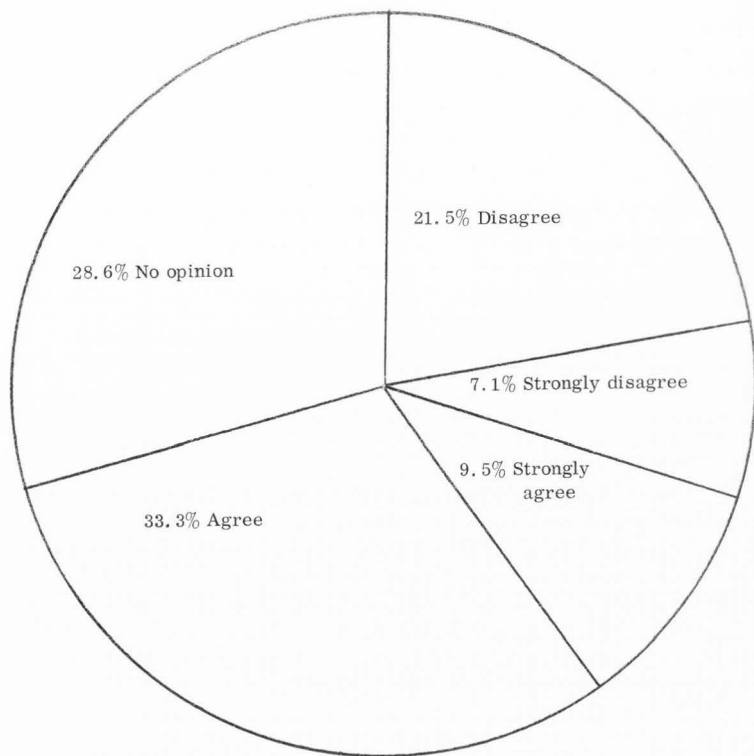


Figure 3. Attitude of Thai Political Science students toward the American political system before they came to the United States.

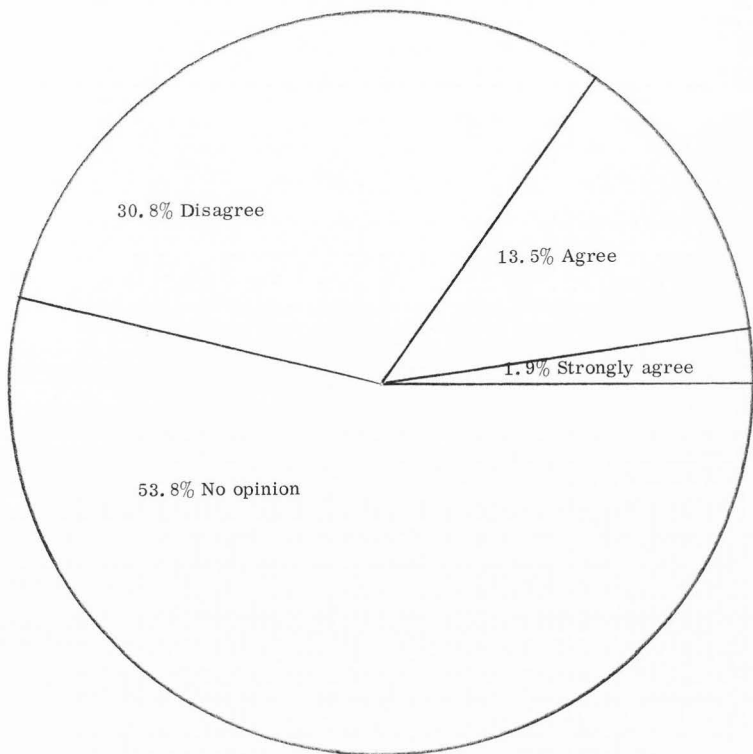


Figure 4. Attitudes of Thai students in various departments toward the American political system before they came to study in the United States.

Question number 18 stated that: "During my study in the United States I have come to like the American political system." The purpose of this question was to investigate the opinion of the respondents during their study in the United States. The opinion of the Political Science students were:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Strongly agree | = | 4.7 percent | |
| Agree | = | 57.3 percent | |
| No opinion | = | 28.6 percent | |
| Disagree | = | 4.7 percent | |
| Strongly disagree | = | 4.7 percent | (See Figure 5.) |

The results showed that after they came to study in the United States, the Political Science students came to like the American political system more than before they came to the United States. The percentages for this problem were: 62 percent (26 persons) agreed and strongly agreed, 9.4 percent (4 persons) disagreed and strongly disagreed, and 28.6 percent (12 persons) had no opinion.

Meanwhile, the result of students in other departments showed:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Strongly agree | = | 3.9 percent | |
| Agree | = | 42.3 percent | |
| No opinion | = | 44.2 percent | |
| Disagree | = | 7.7 percent | |
| Strongly disagree | = | 1.9 percent | (See Figure 6.) |

From the above outcome 44.2 percent of the students had no opinion. Compare this with the previous statement where the percentage of agreement increased

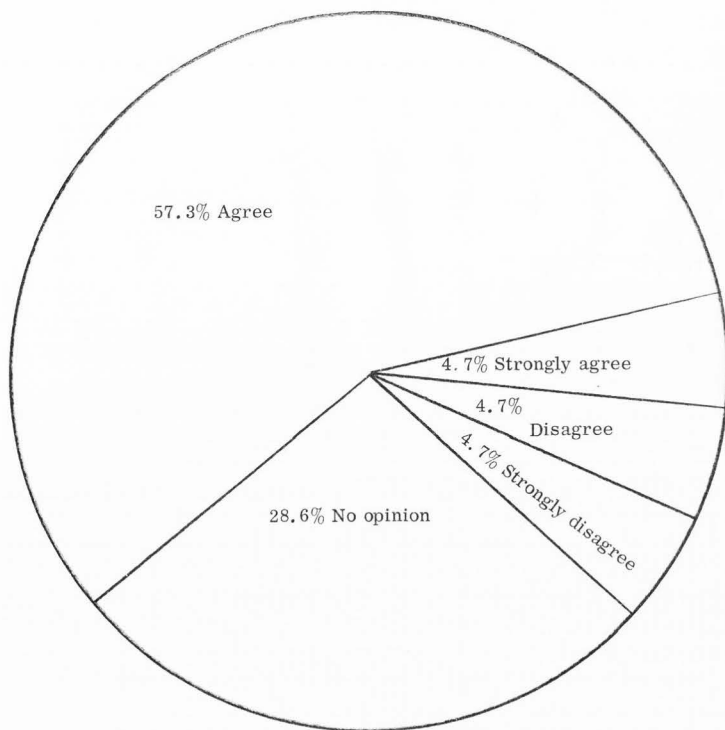


Figure 5. Percentage of the Thai Political Science students concerning the American political system during their stay in the United States.

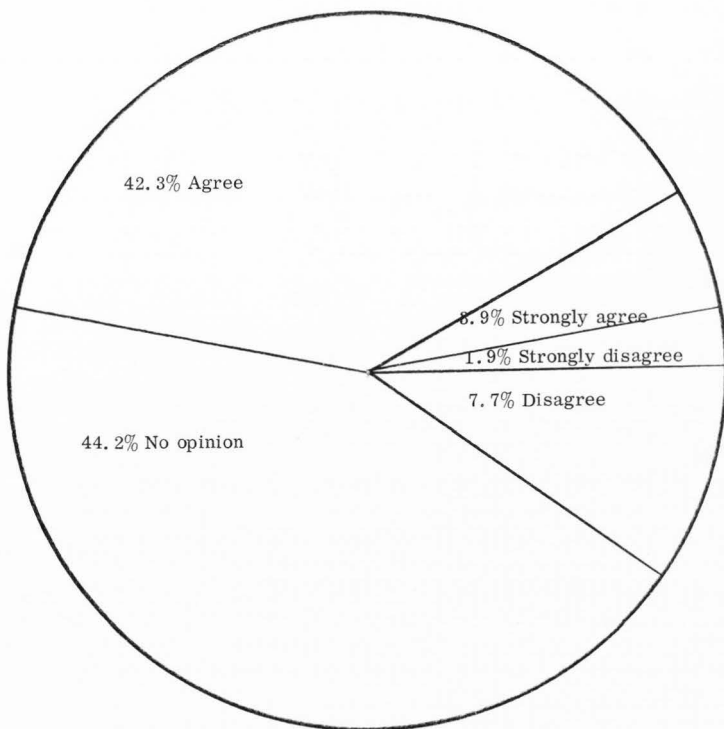


Figure 6. Percentage of Thai students in various departments and their opinion concerning the American political system during their stay in the United States.

from 13.5 percent to 42.3 percent and the percentage of disagreement decreased from 30.8 to 7.7 percent. Most of the students in those departments, for instance, the Department of Engineering, do not understand the American political system. One of them said, "I did not understand your question because my field is engineering, not political science." However, most of the students in the other departments agreed with the statement. Therefore, the students like the American political system now more than when they were in Thailand.

Question number 16 stated: "In the American political system freedom of expression is the most important characteristic." The results of Political Science students were as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Strongly agree | = | 35.6 percent | |
| Agree | = | 59.6 percent | |
| No opinion | = | 2.4 percent | |
| Disagree | = | 2.4 percent | |
| Strongly disagree | = | 0 | (See Figure 7.) |

The results showed that 95.2 percent of the Political Science students agreed and strongly agreed with the statement. Meanwhile, one had no opinion and another one disagreed. Therefore, the majority of the students in the Department of Political Science agreed that freedom of expression is one of the most important things in the United States.

In the same question, the outcome of students in other departments were:

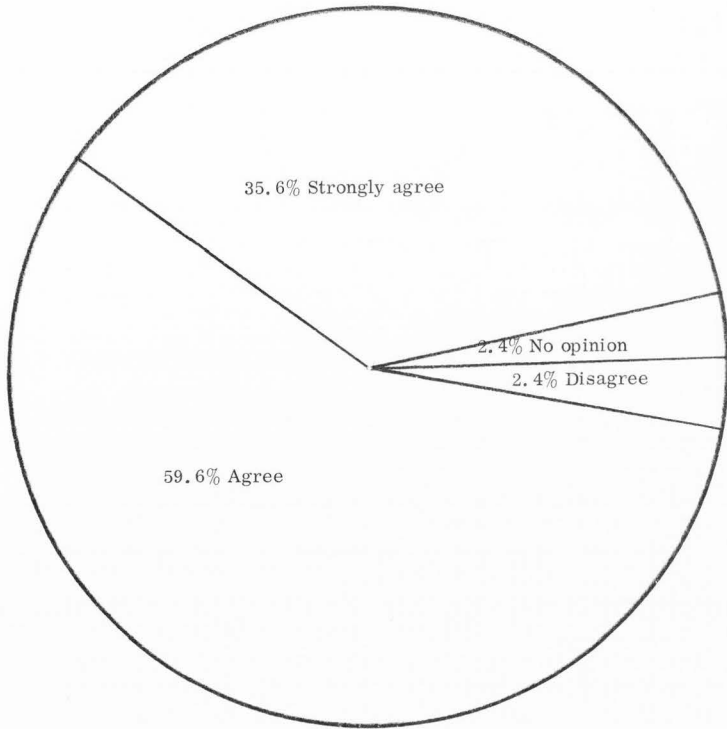


Figure 7. Percentage in attitude about the freedom of expression of the Political Science students concerning the American political system.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Strongly agree | = | 23.1 percent | |
| Agree | = | 61.5 percent | |
| No opinion | = | 13.5 percent | |
| Disagree | = | 1.9 percent | |
| Strongly disagree | = | 0 | (See Figure 8.) |

The foregoing figures showed most of the Thai students in various departments agreed with the statement, 84.6 percent of the total agreed and strongly agreed, 13.5 percent had no opinion and only one student disagreed. Therefore, the majority of the students agreed that the freedom of expression is the most important thing in the American political system.

Question number 25 is the most important question in this section. It stated: "In my opinion, the American political system is the best among the Democratic nations." The purpose of this statement was to find the number who are favorable or unfavorable toward the American political system. If the majority of students agree with the statement, it means they favor the American political system. The answer showed that most of the Political Science students agreed and strongly agreed with this statement. The outcome of the survey of the Political Science students were as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Strongly agree | = | 9.6 percent | |
| Agree | = | 57.2 percent | |
| No opinion | = | 16.6 percent | |
| Disagree | = | 14.2 percent | |
| Strongly disagree | = | 2.4 percent | (See Figure 9.) |

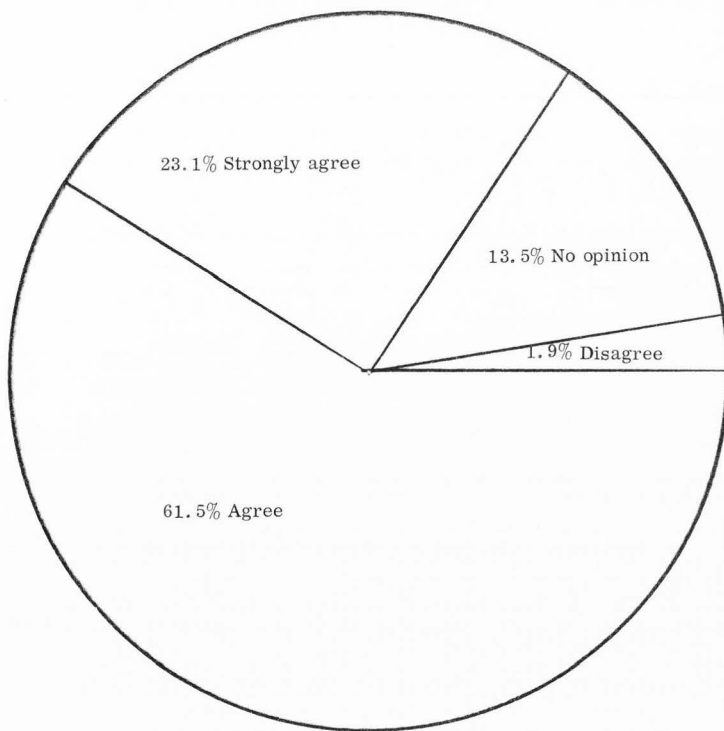


Figure 8. Percentage of Thai students in various departments toward the American political system.

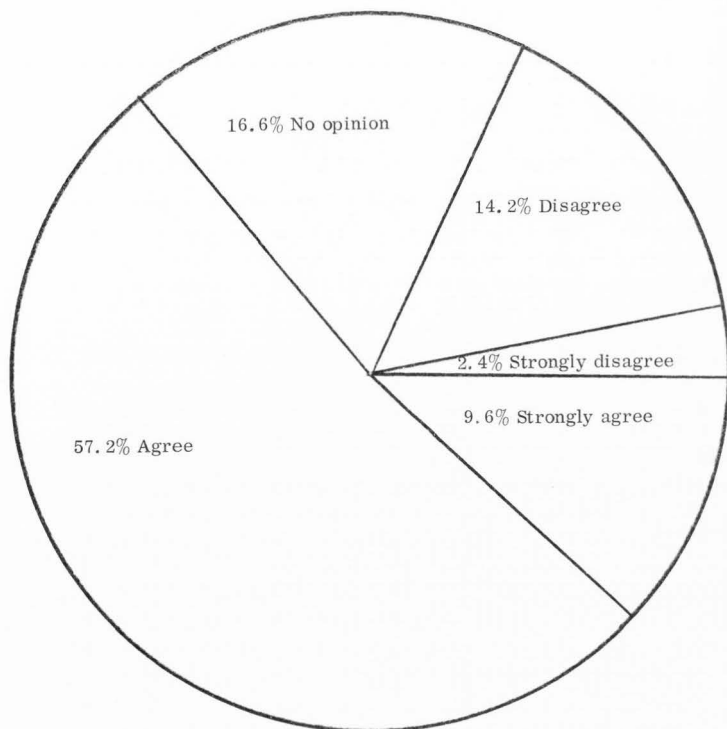


Figure 9. Percentage of the American political system and the Political Science students.

The results showed that 66.8 percent agreed and strongly agreed with the statement, 16.6 percent had no opinion, 9.6 percent disagreed, and only one person strongly disagreed with the statement. One of them had no opinion on this question but he said that "I like the American political system because it guarantees the freedom and liberty of the people, but it is not the best among the Democratic nations." Another student said that "each system is best for its country. You can not say that the system which is best for one country is best for another." However, the majority of the students agreed with this statement, which means they like the American political system.

At the same time, the outcome to this statement of the students in various departments were:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Strongly agree | = | 7.7 percent |
| Agree | = | 53.8 percent |
| No opinion | = | 30.8 percent |
| Disagree | = | 7.7 percent |
| Strongly disagree | = | 0 percent (See Figure 10.) |

The results showed 61.5 percent of the students agreed and strongly agreed that the American political system is the best among the Democratic nations, 30.8 percent had no opinion and 7.7 percent disagreed. Therefore, from the above figure, the attitude of the Thai students in various departments favors the American political system.

We now turn back to study all of the questions that dealt with this section. We found that both groups of the Thai students reported to like

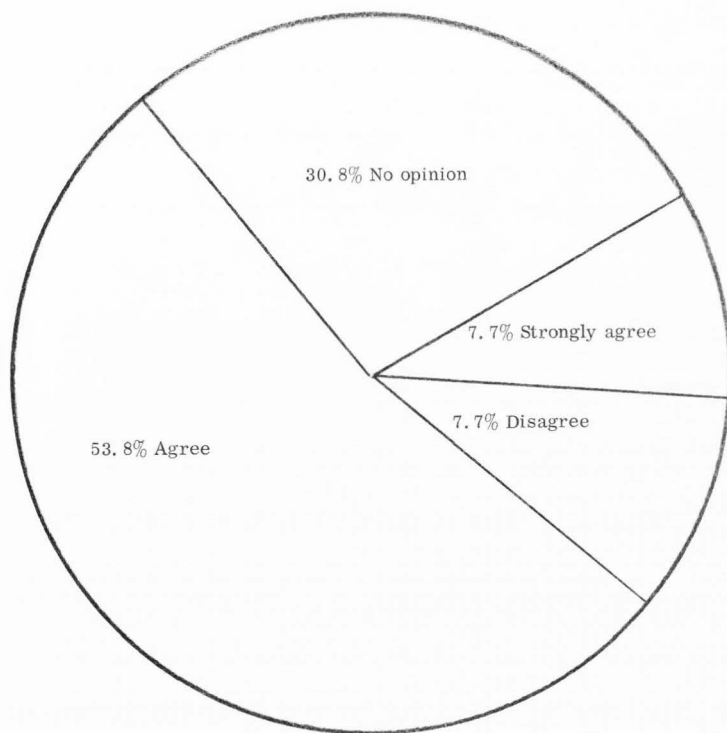


Figure 10. Percentage of the Thai students attitude in various departments toward the American political system.

the American political system more than they disliked it. In Figures 1 and 2 69.6 percent, total of all respondents, agreed that the American political system is better than the Thai political system. Figures 3 and 4 showed that their opinion, before they came to study in the United States, indicated that 29.1 percent liked the American political system. Figures 5 and 6 indicated the percentages increased to 54.1 percent of all the respondents like the American political system during the time they studied in the United States. Moreover, 89.85 percent of both the groups agreed and strongly agreed that the freedom of expression is the most important in the American democratic society. In comparing the American political system to the other Democratic nations it was found that 64.15 percent of the total of the students agreed that the American political system is the best among the Democratic nations and only 12.1 percent disagreed with the statement.

From the results of this survey it can be concluded that the hypothesis: "Thai students' attitude toward the American political system is more favorable than unfavorable" is true.

Comparison of attitudes between the Political
Science students and the students in
various departments

From the previous study, the distribution of the respondents' answer showed that students in both groups are more favorable to the American political system than unfavorable. In this section a comparison will be made of both groups to see which group has a higher degree of favor for the American

political system. First the comparison between the American political system and Thai political system shows 73.8 percent of the Political Science students prefer the American political system, while 65.4 percent of the students in the other departments like the American political system. Second, before they came to study in the United States, 42.8 percent of the Political Science students like the American political system and only 15.4 percent of the students in other departments liked the American political system. However, when they came to study in the United States their favorable attitude toward the American political system increased from 42.8 percent to 62 percent and from 15.4 percent to 46.2 percent, respectively. Lastly, in comparing the American political system with the Democratic nations, 66.8 percent of the political students favor the American political system, and 61.5 percent of the students in the other departments favor the American political system.

From the above comparison, the conclusion is that "the Thai students in the Department of Political Science have a more favorable attitude toward the American political system than students in other departments." (See Table 9.)

General attitude of the Thai students

In this section, the purpose was to measure the general attitude of the Thai students as to the following subjects.

Attitude toward the American education system.

The comparison of attitude between the Democratic and Communist

system.

Table 9. Comparison between two groups of students in the field of like the American political system

| Department | Compare with Thai political system | Before came to the United States | During stay in the United States | Prefer among the Democratic nations |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Political Science | 73.8% | 42.8% | 62% | 66.8% |
| Other | 65.4% | 15.4% | 46.2% | 61.5% |

Attitude toward the American education system

Education is important to people in the world. Developed and underdeveloped countries are trying to improve their education systems. Most of the foreign students want to come to study in the United States because the United States is a big country and offers a wide range of study in the field of education. Therefore, students from many parts of the world come to study in the United States for higher education. Thai students strongly desire to come to study in the United States for higher academic degree.

The purpose of this section is to measure Thai students' attitude concerning the American education system. There are two such questions in this study. One is Question number 15, which states "I came to study in the United States because I like the American education system." This question means before they came to study in the United States they liked the American education system. The other is Question number 20, which

states, "During my study in the United States, I have found the American education system to be a superior system." These two questions used a five point scale to measure their attitude. The result of these two questions showed as follows: In Question number 15, 70.2 percent of respondents agreed and strongly agreed with the statement, 21.3 percent had no opinion, 8.5 percent disagree and no one strongly disagreed. In Question 20, 68.1 percent of the students agreed and strongly agreed with the statement, 19.1 percent had no opinion, and 12.8 percent disagreed. The above results showed that the majority of the Thai students like the American education system. Therefore, we can make a conclusion of this statement that Thai students' attitude toward the American education system is more favorable than unfavorable.

Table 10. Attitude of Thai students toward American education system

| Students | Strongly agree | Agree | No opinion | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Total of the respondents |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Before coming to the United States | 13 (13.8%) | 53 (56.4%) | 20 (21.3%) | 8 (8.5%) | - | 94 (100%) |
| During stay in the United States | 9 (9.6%) | 55 (58.5%) | 18 (19.1%) | 12 (12.8%) | - | 94 (100%) |

Comparison of the Thai students'
attitudes between the Democratic
and the Communist system

In the present day, the Communists have much influence in the underdeveloped countries, such as in South East Asia and Africa. Therefore, the purpose of this section is to explore Thai students' attitudes during their study in the United States, whether they favor the Democratic system or the Communist system. Question number 28 states that "I prefer the Democratic system to the Communist system." The respondents, again, were asked to select one choice of agreement. The distribution of the respondents' answers is given below and in Figure 11. The results are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|
| Strongly agree | = | 44 percent |
| Agree | = | 29.8 percent |
| No opinion | = | 29.8 percent |
| Disagree | = | 1.1 percent |
| Strongly disagree | = | 5.5 percent |
| No report | = | 1.1 percent |

The majority of the Thai students prefer the Democratic system to the Communist system. More than one-fourth of the students had no opinion, 5.2 percent strongly disagreed with the statement and one student disagreed. One of the students did not circle this question, but commented that there are "not only two political systems in the world, I prefer the political system of the Scandinavian."

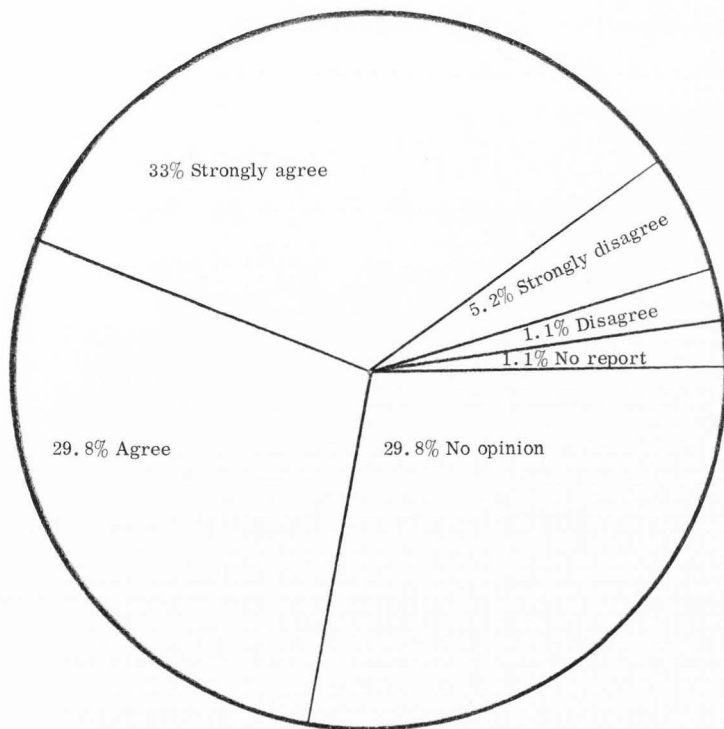


Figure 11. Attitude of Thai students toward the Democratic system and the Communist system.

From the results of Question 28 we can conclude that "Thai students at Utah State University prefer the Democratic system, not the Communist system."

CHAPTER V
ATTITUDES OF THE THAI STUDENTS TOWARD THE
AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

In the previous chapter, the attitudes of the Thai students toward the American political system were explored. In this chapter attitudes of Thai students will be measured concerning the following:

1. Attitudes of Thai students interested in politics.
2. Age and their attitudes toward the American political system.
3. Length of stay in the United States and the attitudes toward the American political system.

Attitude of Thai students interested in politics

The purpose of this section is to find out the interest in politics of the Thai students. The respondents of this section were divided into two groups, one is the male students and the other is the female students. Thai students' attitudes on the problem of being interested in politics were explored through question number 11: "I feel that I have a deep interest in politics." The respondents were asked to select yes or no after the statement. The answers to this question are presented in Table 11. There were 76.1 percent of the total male students interested in politics and only 40.8 percent of the female students interested in politics. The answers of the respondents indicated that "The Thai male students are more interested in politics than Thai female students."

Table 11. Sex and attitude of Thai students interested in politics

| Sex | Interested in politics | Not interested in politics |
|--------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Male | 76.1% | 23.9% |
| Female | 40.8% | 59.2% |
| Total | 58.4% | 41.55% |

Age and their attitudes toward the
American political system

The second part of this chapter was to compare two groups according to age as to their attitudes toward the American political system. Students in the one group were over 25 years old and the other group was under 25 years. Two questions deal with this problem. In question number 14 the students were asked to select which one of the political system is best, the Thai political system or the American political system. Table 12 shows that 65.5 percent of the younger respondents favored the American political system, 13.8 percent favored the Thai political system and 20.7 percent did not answer. Meanwhile, 70.8 percent of the respondents over 25 years of age favored the American political system, 10.7 percent favored the Thai political system, and 18.6 percent did not answer this question. Two of them said "neither one political system is best," and only one respondent said "the system is best for each country."

Table 12. Age and attitude toward the American political system

| Age | Like the American political system | Like the Thai political system | No report |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Under 25 years old | 65.5% | 13.8% | 20.7% |
| Over 25 years old | 70.8% | 10.7% | 18.6% |

Again, a similar attitude can be seen in the respondents' answers to question number 25, which compares the American political system among the Democratic nations. The Thai students were asked to react to the statement on the five point scale of agreement. The distribution of respondents is given below in Table 13; 51.7 percent of the younger students agreed and strongly agreed that the American political system is the best among the Democratic nations, 38 percent had no opinion and 10.3 percent disagreed. In the same Table, the attitude of the students over 25 years old showed that 69.2 percent agreed and strongly agreed with the statement, 18.5 percent had no opinion, 12.3 percent strongly disagreed and disagreed. From the two questions, after comparison of their attitudes in each table, the conclusion was that the older Thai students have a more favorable attitude toward the American political system than the younger Thai students.

Table 13. Attitude and age concerning the American political system compared to the other Democratic nations

| Age | Strongly agree | Agree | No opinion | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| N = 29 Under 25 years old | 6.9% | 44.8% | 38% | 10.3% | - |
| N = 65 Over 25 year old | 9.2% | 60% | 18.5% | 10.8% | 1.5% |

Attitudes and the length of stay of the students

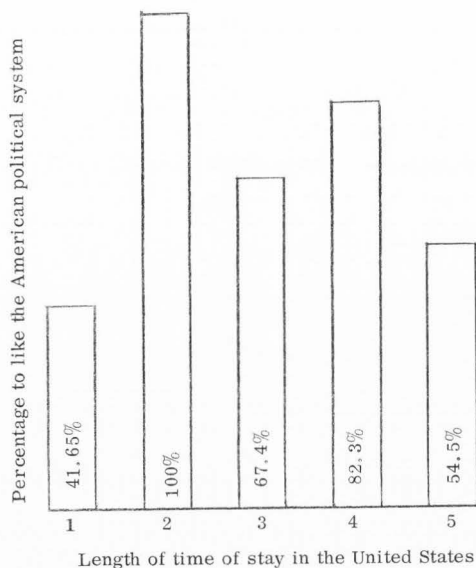
The purpose of this section is to determine the attitudes toward the American political system in relation to the length of stay in the United States. Table 7 in Chapter III is divided into five periods of time: (1) less than six months, (2) more than six months but less than one year, (3) more than one year but less than two years, (4) more than two years but less than three years, (5) over three years. The questions in this section deal with the same questions--14 and 25. Question number 14 asked the respondents to select between the American political system and the Thai political system. The distribution of answers of the respondents according to the length of stay in the United States is shown in Table 14. Of the respondents who stayed in the United States more than six months but less than one year, 100 percent favored the American political system. In the second group, 82.3 percent of the students who stayed in the United States more than two years but less than three years favored the American political system. Two groups favored the

American political system; the group who stayed in the United States less than six months and the group who remained more than three years. These answers indicate that the respondents who stayed in the United States between six months to one year were most favorable to the American political system.

Table 14. Attitude and the length of stay of the respondents toward the American political system

| Length of stay | Favor the American political system | Favor the Thai political system | No report | Total of the respondents |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1-6 months | 5 (41.65%) | 5 (41.65%) | 2 (16.7%) | 12 (100%) |
| 6-12 months | 11 (100%) | - | - | 11 (100%) |
| 1-2 years | 29 (67.4%) | 4 (9.3%) | 10 (23.3%) | 43 (100%) |
| 2-3 years | 14 (82.3%) | - | 3 (17.7%) | 17 (100%) |
| Over 3 years | 6 (54.5%) | 2 (18.2%) | 3 (27.3%) | 11 (100%) |

Question 14 in this section compared the attitudes of the Thai students toward the American political system and the Thai political system by the length of time they stay in the United States. Again, a similar attitude was measured in question 25, which compared the American political system with the Democratic nations. The respondents were asked to select one choice of agreement or disagreement from the five scale. Table 15 shows the outcome



- 1 = Less than six months
- 2 = More than six months, but less than one year
- 3 = More than one year, but less than two years
- 4 = More than two years, but less than three years
- 5 = Over three years

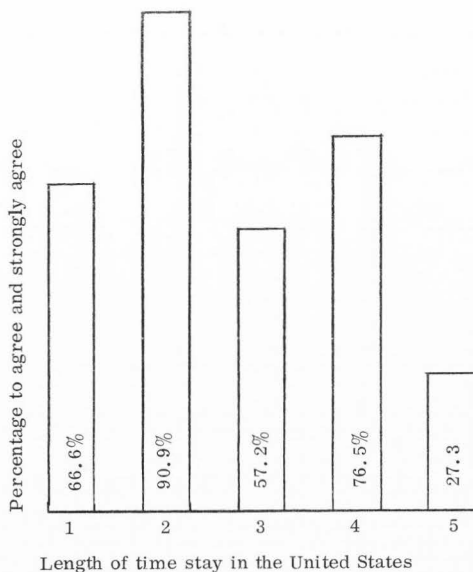
Figure 12. Percentage of the Thai students favoring the American political system compared with the Thai political system by the length of stay in the United States.

of the respondents who stayed for a period of six months to one year to be an overwhelming majority in favor of the American political system as best among the Democratic nations (90.9 percent agreed and strongly agreed).

Table 15. Attitude and the length of stay of the respondents toward the American political system compared among the Democratic nations

| Length of stay | Strongly agree | Agree | No opinion | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Total of the respondents |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-6 months | - | .8 (66.6%) | 3 | 1 (25%) | - (8.4%) | 12 (100%) |
| 6-12 months | 3 (27.3%) | 7 (63.6%) | 1 (9.1%) | - | - | 11 (100%) |
| 1-2 years | 3 (7%) | 22 (51.2%) | 12 (27.8%) | 5 (11.6%) | 1 (2.4%) | 43 (100%) |
| 2-3 years | 1 (5.9%) | 12 (70.6%) | 3 (17.6%) | 1 (5.9%) | - | 17 (100%) |
| Over 3 years | 1 (9.1%) | 2 (18.2%) | 5 (45.4%) | 3 (27.3%) | - | 11 (100%) |

From the study of these two questions, it may be concluded that the results of the respondents' opinion can be divided into four categories. The first category is concerned with groups of students who have stayed in the United States for less than six months and more than three years. In Figure 12, 41.65 percent of the students who stay in the United States less than six months liked the American political system, while 54.5 percent of the students who stayed in the United States more than three years liked the American political



1 = Less than six months

2 = More than six months, but less than one year

3 = More than one, but less than two years

4 = More than two years, but less than three years

5 = Over three years

Figure 13. Percentage of Thai students agree and strongly agree with the statement that the American political system is best among the Democratic nations by the length of stay in the United States.

system. In Figure 13, 66.6 percent of the students who stayed in the United States more than six months agreed and strongly agreed that the American political system is the best among the Democratic nations, while 27.3 percent of the students who stayed more than three years had the same opinion. The second category includes the percentage of the students who stayed in the United States more than one year but less than two years. In Figure 12, 67.4 percent of the students liked the American political system, while Figure 12, 51.2 percent agreed and strongly agreed that the American political system is the best among the Democratic nations. The third category deals with the students who stayed in the United States more than two years but less than three years. In Figure 12, 82.3 percent of the students in this group liked the American political system and in Figure 13, 76.5 percent of the group of the students agreed and strongly agreed that the American political system is best among the Democratic nations. The fourth category is the most valuable to this hypothesis because in both Figures 12 and 13, the students who stayed in the United States more than six months but less than one year showed a majority approval for the American political system. In Figure 12, 100 percent liked the American political system and Figure 13, 90.9 percent agreed and strongly agreed that the American political system is best among the Democratic nations, just only one of them had no opinion. Therefore, the new hypothesis should be "the students who stayed in the United States more than six months but less than one year are the most favorable toward the American political system."

CHAPTER VI
ATTITUDES OF THE THAI STUDENTS TOWARD THE KING OF THAILAND
AND BUDDHISM: A STUDY OF ATTITUDE CHANGE

In the study of Chapter IV, the result showed that the majority of the Thai students favored the American political system. In this chapter, the respondents' attitudes toward the Thai political system and the American political system will be checked in relation to their attitudes toward the King of Thailand and Buddhism, as well as to their length of stay in the United States. Two groups of respondents will be questioned: (1) the students who stayed in the United States less than one year, and (2) the students who stayed in the United States over one year. The purpose of this chapter is to show that the attitudes of the Thai students attending Utah State University will alter or will not alter toward a change from the Thai political system to the American political system. The alternative of attitudes of the students will be considered in reference to their length of stay in the United States. The scope of this chapter covers the following:

1. Attitudes toward the King of Thailand.
2. Attitudes toward Buddhism.

Attitudes toward the King of Thailand

The Thai Kingdom was founded in 1238, under the reign of King Sri Inratit, the first King of Thailand. Since the founding of the Thai Kingdom

until the present, Thailand has been ruled by a King as the Chief of State. David A. Wilson mentioned that "the King or the monarchy is a symbol of the nation as a unified entity and of political conservatism."¹ The history of Thailand shows that the King was the center of the socio-political system and that he was thought of as absolute and sacred. Siffin says "In the simplest of terms, there was no 'state.' There was only the King's domain. He owned what was in it, and it existed for his aims and purpose."²

The King of Thailand is a symbol of unity and a person beloved by all people. Two questions measured the respondents' attitudes toward the King. Question 27 states: "The King of Thailand is a symbol of unity in the nation." One choice is made from a multiple choice of five. The distribution of the respondents' answers is given below in Table 16. The great majority of the two groups of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that the King of Thailand is the symbol of unity in the nation.

Again, a similar pattern of the attitudes can be seen in the response to Question number 29, which states: "In my opinion, the King of Thailand is a person beloved by all of the people." The distribution of the respondents' answers is given below in Table 17. The results showed that 96.5 percent of the

¹David A. Wilson, Politics in Thailand (New York: Cornell University Press, 1962), p. 81.

²William J. Siffin, The Thai Bureaucracy: Institutional Change and Development (Honolulu, Hawaii: East-West Center Press, 1966), pp. 14-15.

Table 16. Attitudes of the Thai students toward the King of Thailand as a symbol of unity in the nation according to their length of stay in the United States

| Length of stay | Strongly agree | Agree | No opinion | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| N = 23 | | | | | |
| Less than one year | 65.2% | 30.4% | 4.4% | - | - |
| N = 71 | | | | | |
| More than one year | 71.9% | 22.5% | 5.6% | - | - |

Table 17. Attitudes of the Thai students toward the King of Thailand, that he is a person beloved by all of the people, by the length of stay in the United States

| Length of stay | Strongly agree | Agree | No opinion | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| N = 23 | | | | | |
| Less than one year | 73.9% | 21.7% | 4.4% | - | - |
| N = 71 | | | | | |
| Over one year | 57.8% | 35.2% | 5.6% | 1.4% | - |

respondents who stayed in the United States less than one year agreed and strongly agreed with the statement. Meanwhile, 93 percent of the respondents who stayed in the United States over one year also agreed and strongly agreed

with the statement. One of the students who stayed over one year disagreed; he said, "You can say 'all of the people,' how about the minority?" Nevertheless, the great majority of the respondents agreed with the statement.

From the response of Questions 27 and 29, the results show that the period of time in the United States of the respondents made no difference in the attitude change toward the King of Thailand. Therefore, the conclusion can be made that the attitude toward the King of the Thai students attending Utah State University, are more favorable than unfavorable. They feel that the King is a symbol of unity and a person beloved by all of the people.

Attitudes toward Buddhism

Religion is perhaps Thailand's most important unifying factor. Almost all Thais are Buddhists. Because of the predominance of Theravada Buddhism, Thailand declared Buddhism the official religion. This was done about the same time that Sukho-Thai was named the first capital of the national consolidated Kingdom. Religion in Thailand is truly an expression of national character and the way of life of the Thai people. It is something very specific, and essential to the understanding of the behavioral pattern of the Thai people. Thus, Blanchard remarked:

Religion is not only a visible agency in Thai life, but a germinal one as well. Buddhist values permeate the culture, and religion is the historic wellspring from which flow the nations' metaphysics, its art and literature, its ethics and morality, and many of its morals, folkways and festivals.³

³Wendell Blanchard, Thailand, Its People, Its Society, Its Culture (New Haven, Connecticut: Human Relation Area Files, Inc., 1958), p. 12.

Wilson says this of the religion in Thailand:

It binds the highest and lowest in what is seen as a just and natural scale of status and right. Bound up with religion is the fundamental ethic of doing good for the sake of one's fate and also of seeking after one's own good fate before all else. It reinforces the social virtues upon which society rests. It encourages a certain love of enjoyment, coolness in the face of trouble, and indifference to disappointment, which makes life easier and suffering bearable.⁴

According to Siffin, Buddhism served as a socializing and acculturating force. Each person worked out his own "salvation," that earthly existence was only a temporary time of trial and temptation, and that basically each person was allowed freedom to follow the dictates of his own conscience. He further states:

Buddhism ascribed no immutable status to any man, nor did it preclude one from pursuing his own aims and interests. It nurtured social cohesion, but not secondary associations. It left none of the teleological questions unanswered, and its answers were compatible with social and physical reality, as these were perceived from a Buddhist perspective. It was--and is--an efficacious religion to its adherents.⁵

Response to Question 35 indicates whether the Buddhist religion has considerable influence on the daily life of Thai people as well as their attitudes, customs, and tradition. The distribution of the respondents' answers are shown in Table 18. The result of the respondents who stayed in this country less than one year was:

⁴Wilson, p. 82.

⁵Siffin, p. 14.

Table 18. Attitudes of Thai students toward Buddhism by the length of stay in the United States

| Length of stay | Strongly agree | Agree | No opinion | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| N = 23 | | | | | |
| Less than one year | 34.8% | 60.8% | - | 4.4% | - |
| N = 71 | | | | | |
| Over one year | 38% | 53.6% | 5.6% | 2.8% | - |

Strongly agree = 34.8 percent

Agree = 60.8 percent

No opinion = 0 percent

Disagree = 4.4 percent

Strongly disagree = 0 percent

Meanwhile, the result of the respondents who stayed in the United

States over one year showed:

Strongly agree = 38 percent

Agree = 53.6 percent

No opinion = 5.6 percent

Disagree = 2.8 percent

Strongly disagree = 0 percent

The results of the two groups showed that the length of stay in the United States did not change the attitudes of the respondents toward Buddhism. Therefore,

the Buddhist religion still has a great influence over the Thai students.

Again, the same trend appears in the distribution of answers to Questions 34 and 36. Question number 34 states that "If the Thai system of government were changed from a monarchy to a presidential system, there must be a violent revolution." Question number 36 states: "One concept in Buddhism is the mild way of doing things, therefore, Thai people do not prefer a drastic change." These two questions are the key of this chapter. If the majority of the two groups of students agree with these statements it means that Thai students do not desire their political system to be changed to the American political system. The results are shown in Tables 19 and 20. The majority of the two groups agreed with Questions 34 and 36. Therefore, the length of stay in the United States did not change the students' attitudes toward the Thai political system. The conclusion then can be made that the Thai political system will not be changed to a presidential system, because the Thai students do not prefer a drastic change.

Table 19. Attitudes of Thai students toward the change of their political system by the length of stay in the United States

| Length of stay | Strongly agree | Agree | No opinion | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| N = 23 | | | | | |
| Less than one year | 21.7% | 47.9% | 30.4% | - | - |
| N = 71 | | | | | |
| Over one year | 19.7% | 49.3% | 18.3% | 12.7% | - |

Table 20. Attitudes of Thai students toward the concept of Buddhism's mild way of doing things

| Length of stay | Strongly agree | Agree | No opinion | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| N = 23 | | | | | |
| Less than one year | 30.4% | 56.4% | 13.2% | - | - |
| N = 71 | | | | | |
| Over one year | 16.9% | 60.7% | 14% | 7% | 1.4% |

We readily see that from the responses of these two groups no matter how much the American political system is favored, the respondents do not prefer to change the Thai political system to be more similar to the American political system. The reasons for this conclusion are:

1. Thai students still need to have a King because the King of Thailand is the symbol of unity in the nation, and a person beloved by all of the people.
2. The influence of the concepts of the Buddhist religion is of great importance in the attitudes of the Thai students, and they do not desire a change in their own Thai political system.

CHAPTER VII
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The study of attitudes toward the American Political System of the Thai students attending Utah State University began in January 1970, with the total of ninety-six Thai students. The problem of this study was to measure the attitude of Thai students at the Utah State University toward the American Political System as favorable or unfavorable.

The method of this study was an opinion or attitude survey. Copies of the questionnaire were personally delivered to and collected from Thai students by the writer himself. Ninety-four questionnaires or 97.92 percent of the total ninety-six were returned.

The study of attitudes toward the American Political System, favorable or unfavorable, was explored through question number 14, 16, 17, 18, and 25. As a result of the survey it was found that "Thai students' attitude toward the American Political System is more favorable than unfavorable."

Meanwhile, the number of Thai students was divided into two groups; one was the students in Departments of Political Science and other was the students in other departments. The reason for the division was to compare the attitudes of the two groups of students. The results showed: "The Thai students in Department of Political Science have a more favorable attitude

toward the American Political System than students in other departments.

In Chapter V the attitudes of the respondents toward the American Political System were measured by age. The respondents were also divided into two groups, (1) the students under 25 years of age and (2) the students over 25 years old. The outcome of these two groups of students showed: "The older Thai students have a more favorable attitude toward the American Political System than the younger Thai students."

Under the heading of the length of stay and the attitude toward American Political System, the respondents were divided into five categories: (1) less than six months, (2) more than six months but less than one year, (3) more than one year but less than two years, (4) more than two years but less than three years and (5) over three years. The responses showed: "The Thai students who stayed in the United States more than six months but less than one year were the most favorable toward the American Political System."

Attitudes of Thai students interested in politics was also measured. The respondents were divided into two groups, male and female. The answers of the respondents indicated that "The Thai male students were more interested in politics than the Thai female students."

In the study of the general attitudes of the Thai students, two ideas were considered: (1) attitude toward the American Education System and (2) the comparison of the Thai students' attitudes between the Democratic

and the Communist Systems. The distribution of the respondents' answers were as follow:

(1) Thai students' attitude toward the American Education System is more favorable than unfavorable.

(2) Thai students' attitudes prefer the Democratic rather than the Communist System.

The attitude change of the Thai students toward the Thai Political System in comparison with American Political System during their stay in the United States was determined in the last chapter. The respondents were: (1) students who stayed in the United States less than one year, and (2) those who stayed in the United States over one year. The results of the survey showed: "The period of time spent in the United States caused no difference in change of attitudes. The respondents absolutely do not desire to change the Thai Political System to the American Political System." Moreover, the result of the respondents showed: "the attitude toward the King of Thailand was more favorable than unfavorable," and "the Buddhist religion still greatly influenced the attitudes of the respondents."

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APPENDIX

Department of Political Science
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Utah 84321
January 29, 1970

Dear Thai Student:

Enclosed here in is a questionnaire designed as part of a survey of the attitudes of the Thai students attending Utah State University and is being conducted in connection with a Master research project of the Department of Political Science, Utah State University.

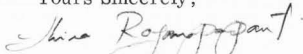
Briefly, this study is concerned with the favorable or unfavorable attitude toward the American Education System, the Political Systems in the world and the American Political System.

The questionnaire is composed of thirty-six questions which are divided into two parts. Part one includes questions 1-14. Each respondent will select one choice for each question. In part two each respondent will make once choice of five which are (1) Strongly agree, (2) Agree, (3) No opinion, (4) Disagree, and (5) Strongly disagree.

All answers will be kept strictly confidential so your true opinion will be greatly appreciated. All respondents will be destroyed after the study is completed.

Thank you for your time and help with this undertaking. I am sure that the value of this survey will justify the time required to participate.

Yours Sincerely,



Thira Rojanapornpant

THE THAI STUDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Sex:
 1. Male
 2. Female
2. What is your age?
 1. Under 21 years old.
 2. 21-25 years old.
 3. 25-30 years old.
 4. Over 30 years old.
3. What is your present marital status?
 1. Single
 2. Married
 3. Widowed
 4. Divorced
 5. Separated
4. What is your college major?
5. For which degree are you studying?
 1. B. S. or B. A.
 2. M. S. or M. A.
 3. PhD
6. What is your religion?
 1. Buddhist

2. Catholic
 3. Protestant
 4. Other
7. Where do you live in Logan at the present time?
1. Dormitory
 2. Apartment
 3. Rooming house
 4. American family
 5. Other
8. How long have you been in the United States?
1. Less than six months
 2. More than six months but less than 1 year
 3. More than 1 year but less than 2 years
 4. More than 2 years but less than 3 years
 5. Over 3 years.
9. Were you employed in Thailand before you came to study at USU?
1. Yes
 2. No
10. If yes, what kind of work did you do?
1. Government official
 2. Private business
 3. Other

11. I feel that I have a deep interest in politics.
 1. Yes
 2. No

12. At the present time, the type of the political system which is used to govern Thailand is the
 1. Democratic System
 2. Military System
 3. Quasi military and quasi Democratic System
 4. Socialist System

13. At the present time, the type of Political System which is used to govern the United States is the
 1. Democratic System
 2. Socialist System
 3. Military oligarchy.

14. In my opinion, the Political System that is best is:
 1. American Political System
 2. Thai Political System

15. I came to study in the United States because I like the American Education System.
 1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion

4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
16. In the American Political System, freedom of expression is the most important characteristic.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
17. I came to study in the United States because I liked the American Political system.
1. Strongly disagree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
18. During my study in the United States I have come to like the American Political System
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree

19. The political system which is used to govern Thailand is quite similar to the system used in the United States.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
20. During my study in the United States I have found the American Educational System to be a superior system.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
21. In the American Political System, the constitution guarantees freedom and liberty to the people.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree

22. The American constitution guarantees civil rights of the people.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
23. In every Democratic nation, the government guarantees freedom, liberty, civil rights and freedom of expression.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
24. In Communist nations, generally, the constitution provides freedom, liberty, civil rights, and freedom of expression.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
25. In my opinion, the American Political System is the best among the Democratic nations.
1. Strongly agree

2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
26. In Communist nations, the government in practice provides freedom, liberty, civil right, and freedom of expression.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
27. The King of Thailand is the symbol of unity in the nation.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
28. I prefer the Democratic System to the Communist System.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree

29. In my opinion, the King of Thailand is a person beloved by all of the people.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
30. Most of the Thai people are well informed about their own political system.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
31. Most of the Thai people are ready to change their attitudes about the political system.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree

32. Most of the Thai people are well informed about political systems of the world.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
33. If all the Thai people had a knowledge of several kinds of political systems as do Thai students at USU the politics of Thailand would be more like the American Political System.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
34. If the Thai system of government were changed from a monarchy to a presidential system, there must be a violent revolution.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree

35. The Buddhist religion has considerable influence on the daily life of Thai people, also their attitudes, customs, and traditions.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
36. One concept in Buddhism is the mild way of doing things, therefore Thai people do not prefer a drastic change.
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. No opinion
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree

VITA

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