

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

POLITIC	THAILAND	MYANMAR
Ineterest Group	The Military is active to create mass organization that consist of bussines men and middle to high society level namely Yellow-Shirt	In order to get the support from the society, under Ne Win control "Tatmadaw" starts to create mass organization that consists of low level society like labour and worker.
Political Party	In Thailand, military is involve in the political party. The elite officers is a member of party and support the military regime.	The military gained support from political party. military directly arrange and create the political party since the Ne Win era.

The Executive Body	<p>Since 1932 until recent era, the power of Thai Junta military in political arena. There are many Thai PM come from military background. Recently, Prayut Chan Ocha is Thai PM</p>	<p>Military power is totally strong and becomes the ruling party since 1962. Until now, Myanmar is under military power. Thein Shein is the President of Myanmar</p>
Economic and Business	<p>Military, as independent institution has expand their power by creating their own bussines in the econmic sector. Start from telecommunications, transportation, banking (such as Thai Farmer Bank, Bangkok Bank, Thai Bank and so on), port until the airport like Thai Airways.</p>	<p>Union of Myanmar Economic Holding Limited (UMHEL) and the Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) and Defence Service Institution (DSI) are the military bussineses to support their economic need as independent institution.</p>

Basically, Thailand and Myanmar have similar history in experiencing military role in politics particularly within democratization process. Both countries are dominated and controlled by military regime since the history era, and the military becomes the major actors in political arena and have a major authority to make decision almost in all aspect such as economic policy, social, politics, and other aspect within a countries.

In Thailand, military role has high position and significant influence toward the daily life of Thai society. Military is regarded as the highest authority that all decisions are made by military. Thailand has long experienced the military's politically pervasive roles, which cause the interruption of democratization. 1932 was the time when Thailand shifted from the absolute monarchy regime to the democratic and at the same time the military launched its roles in politics. Military coups in Thailand during the 74 years since the absolute monarchy was replaced by constitutional monarchy in 1932 until now. There have been 40 commutations of the prime ministers, with 25 figures prime ministers, 25 coups and attempted coups and the last military coup occurred in 2014.

From 1932-1933, military actively entered into political arena and always became the dominant party. The main purpose of military intervention is to protect the country either from internal threats or external threats. Military does not believe the civilian government, because the civilian failed to fulfill the society's need and cannot create a welfare condition. In the era of Phraya Manopakorn, military

noticed that the civilian government failed to lead the political matter. It also happened to Thaksin and Yingluck Sinawatra, who became the prime minister in 2006 and in 2011. They were overthrown by the junta militer, because they failed to create a harmonious condition among Thai people. Moreover, they were accused of corrupting. That is why, military is directly involved into political arena and democracy process in Thailand. Military directly entered to political party until the executive body. In some period military seems to actively compete with civilians. However military becomes the dominant party.

Myanmar also has the similar case about the involvement and the domination of military into political arena and in government system. In Myanmar, there had been seventeen years of the military taking control the politics since the military seized their power on September 18, 1988. Myanmar has faced many domestic problems. Government has not been willing to take any steps, therefore it makes the military group take control everything in Myanmar and the last coup was General KhinNyunt in October 2004. It seems that military in Myanmar had been comfortable to be in the governmental system. Moreover, we could see that both Thailand and Myanmar use oligarchic military from which the military and the politician are making coalition and creating the unstable political system as well as taking control the main political power along with the national politics.

Like Thailand, Myanmar military is also involved into political competition starting from the creation of political party known as Burma Socialist Programme

Party (BSPP). It is a party which strongly represent the military existence in Myanmar political arena, There are a lot of military officers who join the party. Indeed, the involvement of military is focused on the executive body like the prime minister and president. It proves that military has controlled the government system since 1936 until now.

On the other hands, there are some differences between Thailand and Myanmar military involvement in politics and democratization process. Although both countries are dominated by military, the condition remains different. In Thailand, indeed military has strong power in politics by always controlling and staging a coup toward the civilians government. However, the Thai civilian also have an important role and give the significant influence in politics in order to promote the idea of democracy. In 1988, an extreme civilian power was proven by demonstration which consisted of students and social activists, among them is, the elected of civilian prime minister, Chatchai Chunhavan who existed until 1991. Civil and military shared power and staged a level between the medium, in which military keep watching on civilian government.

In 2001, Thaksin Sinawatra was elected to be the prime minister. Hence, again civilian took the political control and government. In 2006, military gained the power back by overthrowing Thaksin. Recently, Yingluck Sinawatra, the young sister of Thaksin was elected as the prime minister in 2011 until 2014. In 2014, military staged a coup toward Yingluck because military noticed some political

discontent. In the era of Thaksin and Yingluck, there were two sides of societies which are RED and Yellow Shirt. The Red one is named as the pro side to Thaksin and Yellow is the contra side of Thaksin and Yingluck. Therefore, the civil-military in Thailand has power sharing. The existence of civil society is really important in the democratization process, furthermore military in Thailand is like firefighters. It means, the military would be involved in political arena when the political condition is unstable. Different from Myanmar, the military is really strict to control the political arena and government system.

Since 1947, the military had controlled the government. Moreover, the existence of civil society seems weaker than Thai Civil society, because in Myanmar military is undefeatable. Hence, eventhough civil society actively struggle for freedom and promote democracy, the junta always becomes a winner. It proves that until now, the military actors have been elected as the president of Mynamar. Thein Shein is a military officer who has good career in military. He was the prime minister in 2007 and elected the president in 2011. Under Thein Shein the system is more liberal such as in economic, politics and social media. The military create the strict regulation on it. Indeed, every policy that has been made is only for military advantages. The fact is, military has veto power toward any regulation in Myanmar. Fortunately, military will use the veto right to promote their idea and reject any kind of decision which are contra with them. Therefore, there are some similarities and differences between Thailand and Myanmar military involvement

in politics and within the democratization. This is an interesting issue to understand how the system runs in both countries.