

Some Thoughts About Thailand

- In Thailand the poorest people are generally the kindest.
- Monks in Thailand are ranked in terms of popularity not unlike the way athletes are ranked in many other countries.
- In a nation with over 200,000 Buddhist monks, why do Buddhist nuns appear to be so rare? There seems to be a gender imbalance in Thai Buddhism.
- In a nation where 5% of the people own over 70% of the wealth, any semblance of a democracy is likely to be superficial.
- If a nation has more coup d'états than constitutional changes, any claims of democracy should be regarded with doubt.
- In some parts of Thailand, the police are simply uniformed gangsters.
- The Buddhist Church in Thailand serves a role not unlike the Church of England in the U.K.: cementing orthodoxy, empowering the royalty, and offering large ceremonial perfunctory services for the poor.
- Les, bi, trans, or gay is perfectly O.K. as long as you smile and do it the Thai way.
- Ostensibly, the Thai military is designed to protect the nation from external invaders. In reality, it "protects" the nation from internal dissent, squelching any movements towards democracy or any criticism of the fossilized oligarchy that controls the state.
- The true wealth of a nation is not measured by GDP; it is the ability of its people to smile no matter what adversities arise. In this respect, I believe most people in Thailand are relatively rich.
- Buddhism is a jewel, but is valuable only to those who acknowledge it. And the non-Buddhists in Thailand would be better off if the Thai church and state were separate. Come to think of it, this is a good idea for every nation. Let people pray free from all political and worldly ambitions.

- T Newfields

Begun: 2001 in Nagoya, Japan ≡ Finished: 2021 in Yokohama, Japan

