

King Bhumibol Adulyadej

King of Thailand



Overview of Thailand

- Has existed for over 700 years
- Slightly bigger than California
- Buddhism is the primary religion
- Economic and educational inequalities



Thai Political System

- Absolute monarchy until 1932
- Now a constitutional monarchy with symbolic King & Queen



Brief biography

Bhumibol Adulyadej "*Strength of the Land, Incomparable Power*"

- Born in the US
- Educated in Switzerland & MIT
- Ascended to the throne in 1946
- Married Mom Rajawongse Sikirit - four children



Personal Accomplishments

- Musician, Painter, & Athlete
- Patent-holding inventor
 - 4 patents – agricultural & environmental
- Philanthropist
 - Bridges gap between government services and citizens' needs. Ex. King's scholarship





Professional Accomplishments

- UN medal: uses his wealth for development projects - farmer's banks, reservoir, & agricultural research
- Facilitated transition to democracy in 1990s
- Sixty years as King - revered by Thai people

King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Strengths

- Sits above politics- citizens have faith in him
- A symbol – not a personality or politician
- Changeless– “even as he guides his nation through a series of dramatic, modernizing changes “





Leadership Style - Transformational

- Idealized Influence - Ethical behavior for 60+ years as King.
- Inspirational Motivation - Inspires citizens to donate generously.
- Intellectual Stimulation - Sustainable environment initiative
- Individualized Consideration - Travel