



**Topic: Thai Perceptions of China: The 1960s to the 2010s**

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This presentation considers the changes in Thai perceptions of China between the 1960s and the 2010s. At each stage, how did the Thai leaders, the public opinion, and media portray China? This presentation focuses on how the changing international situation and domestic affairs affected the government and public opinion. The changes are categorized into four periods based on changes that occurred in the countries' relations: (1) confrontation (1949–1968), (2) adjustment (1968–1978), (3) honeymoon (1978–1989), and (4) friendship (1989–2018).

In these four periods, China was perceived as a “devil,” a “converted criminal,” an informal strategic partner, and friend respectively. The formation of perception can be seen in two directions: top-down direction, and outward-in direction. The top-down direction can be seen when the Thai government tried to create the image of China in particular way. The perception change in the outward-in direction can be seen when there was a substantial change in international politics. It is difficult to reject that in most cases, consideration for national interest was prioritized, and international politics have a powerful momentum effect on domestic politics.