Briefing on the Crisis in Thailand
on Capitol Hill for Congressional Staff
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By:
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Major flashpoints in Thailand's deepening political crisis

- **Elections 2001**
  - Feb 9, 2001

- **Thaksin is cleared of assets concealment**
  - Aug, 2001

- **APEC Meeting**
  - Oct 19-21, 2003

- **War on Drugs**
  - Feb - Apr, 2003
  - - 1,370 died with no drug-related record
  - - 878 died with drug-related record
  - - 371 died of non-drug causes of death
  - - 54 died from extrajudicial killing

- **Explosion on the plane Thaksin due to board**
  - Mar 2, 2001

- **Krue Sae Mosque Incident**
  - Apr 28, 2004

- **Unrest in the south**
  - Jan, 2004

- **Disappearance of human-rights lawyer Somchai Neelapaichit**
  - Mar 12, 2004

Source: Thai Political Timeline
Major flashpoints in Thailand's deepening political crisis

- 82 Tak Bai Incident: Total 1,000 dead in southern unrest, Nov 2005
- 1,000: Car bomb incident, Aug 24, 2006
- Court annulled April 2 elections, May 8, 2006
- "Extraconstitutional authority alleged", Jan 29, 2006
- Elections 2006: Apr 2, 2006
- Elections boycott by Democrat Party, Mar 22, 2006
- Formation of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), Feb 10, 2006
- Demotion Party called for appointment of PM by Art. 7, Mar 25, 2006
- HM's royal speech on Art. 7, Apr 25, 2006
- Public call for appointment of PM by Art. 7, Jun 26, 2006
- 19 September: Network against the Coup d'etat
- New Year's Eve bombings, Oct 31, 2006
- Muangthai Raisapda first aired, Sep 23, 2005
- Thai Political Timeline

Source: Thai Political Timeline
Major flashpoints in Thailand's deepening political crisis

- Coup d'état
- Thai Rak Thai dissolved
- Thai Rak Thai becomes People's Power (PPP)
- Referendum on the constitution (2007)
- Draft Constitution (2007)
- Elections 2007
- Thaksin on trial
- Samak disqualified as PM
- Samak elected PM
- Thaksin fled to England
- Pojaman's court case
- UDD-PAD confrontational
- Somchai elected PM
- Crackdown on PAD
- Coalition party switched sides
- 193 day protest by PAD
- PAD seized govt. housing

Source: Thai Political Timeline
Major flashpoints in Thailand's deepening political crisis

- Pojaman's Rachada property court case
  Oct 21, 2008
- PPP becomes Puer Thai
  Dec 7, 2007
- Abhisit elected PM
  Dec 15, 2008
- Thaksin's assets seized
  Feb 26, 2010
- Red Shirt protest
  Dec, 2009
- Dispersion of Red Shirt protest
  Apr 11, 2009
- UDD attack on ASEAN Summit
  Apr 11, 2009
- Clashes with armed protestors
  Apr 10, 2010
- M79 explosions on Silom
  Apr 22, 2010
- PAD protest at airport
  Nov 25, 2008 - Dec 2, 2008
- PAD rejected parliament dissolution
  May 2, 2010
- Cabinet decision on possible use of force
  May 2, 2010
- PM's 5 point Roadmap
  May 3, 2010
- PAD protest at airport
  Nov 18 - Dec 1, 2008
- Thailand's political timeline

Source: Thai Political Timeline
The recent political crisis
From March 2010 to today

Mar 12: Start of Red Shirts Protest
- Mar 16-17: Protest with Blood at government buildings
  - Apr 10: Clash with Protestors military and police forces use tear gas and rubber bullets
    Dead: 25; Injuries: 839
  - Apr 19: Tensions rise with possibility of violent protests, troops converged in the Silom Road area
  - Apr 22: M79 explosions occur at Silom skytrains. Dead: 1; Injuries: 87
  - Apr 28: Troops clash with Red Shirts on an expressway, blocking their effort to take the demonstrations into the suburbs
    Dead: 1; Injuries: 16

Apr 7: Protesters stormed parliament; State of emergency declared in Bangkok
- Apr 22: Protesters attack Chula Hospital
- Apr 29: Protesters storm parliament; State of emergency declared in Bangkok
- May 10: Red Shirts say they accept Abhisit's election proposal but will not end their protest unless a top government official faces criminal charges.
- May 13-17: Violence escalates as police and troops besiege protest camps. Red Shirt leaders warn of the possibility of civil war.
- May 17: Khattiya succumbed to injuries; government ceasefire deadline for protesters to leave the demonstration area by 3 p.m.
- May 12: The government withdraws election offer. Announcing that the army would cut off supplies of water, food and electricity to the protest zone.
- Apr 28: Troops clash with Red Shirts on an expressway, blocking their effort to take the demonstrations into the suburbs
  Dead: 1; Injuries: 16
- Apr 29: Protesters attack Chula Hospital
  Dead: 1; Injuries: 87
- May 3: Thai PM offers new elections at Nov 14 and 5-point plan
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Five-point plan

1. Respect for the monarchy
2. To resolve fundamental problems of social injustice.
3. To ensure that the media operate constructively
4. To establish facts about violent incidents
5. To establish mutually acceptable political rules
State of Play

NORTH EAST THAILAND

[Map of Thailand with highlighted areas]
Stock exchange of Thailand

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Source: BigCharts.com
Baht/dollar rate
Debt Rating

- April 12: Thailand's foreign currency debt is rated "BBB" with a stable outlook; local currency is rated "A-" with a stable outlook.

- April 19: Fitch Ratings changed the outlook on Thailand's “A-” local currency rating to negative from stable.
Key Actors
International Players
Possible Scenarios

I. Early reconciliation & stability where PM Abhisit Vejjajiva's 5-point reconciliation plan is implemented without elections

II. Protracted conflict, polarization deepens

III. Military forced to step in to rule and bring stability
Weakened ASEAN

Economic & Commercial

Regional Architecture

China’s Role: Security Posture

Implications for the U.S.