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A Kingdom in Crisis: Thailand's Struggle for Democracy in the Twenty-First Century (Asian Arguments)

By Andrew MacGregor Marshall



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Struggling to emerge from a despotic past, Thailand stands at a defining moment in its history. Scores have been killed on the streets of Bangkok. Freedom of speech is routinely denied. Democracy appears increasingly distant. Long dreaded by Thais, the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej is expected to unleash even greater instability.

Yet in spite of the impact of the crisis, and the extraordinary importance of the royal succession, they have never been comprehensively analyzed, because Thailand's draconian lese majesté law has silenced most discussion - until now. Breaking Thailand's draconian lese majesté Andrew MacGregor Marshall is one of the only journalists covering contemporary Thailand who tells the whole story. He provides a comprehensive explanation that makes sense of the crisis for the first time, revealing the unacknowledged succession conflict that has become entangled with the struggle for democracy in Thailand.



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Review

“An explosive analysis that lays bare what the Thai elite has tried to keep hidden for decades. A clear-eyed view of what is really at stake in Thailand's continuing turmoil.”

(David Streckfuss, author of *Truth on Trial in Thailand: Defamation, Treason, and Lèse-Majesté*)

“A timely and highly readable account of the grim political reality of the Land of Smiles. An essential primer for every visitor.”

(Joe Studwell, author of *Asian Godfathers and How Asia Works*)

“Andrew MacGregor Marshall has written perhaps the best introduction yet to the roots of Thailand's present political impasse. He explains how an aspect of the crisis whose importance many analysts in Thailand and overseas have an interest in minimizing—the looming succession in the Thai royal family—is in fact central. A brilliant book that could perhaps have been written only by somebody who knows Thailand so well he knew he had to leave the country to write it.”

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“Finally someone says the unsayable. A must read for observers of Thai politics.”

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(Christine Gray, anthropologist and pioneering analyst of Thailand's monarchy)

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(Paul Handley, author of *The King Never Smiles: A Biography of Thailand's Bhumibol Adulyadej*)

About the Author

Andrew MacGregor Marshall is a journalist, political risk consultant, and corporate investigator, focusing mainly on Southeast Asia. A fugitive from Thai law as a result of his journalism about the royal family, he now lives in Phnom Penh.

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