

London's Thai Monarchical Outpost Out To Destroy Southeast Asia

by Mike Billington

April 26—Despite the fact that Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vijjajiva is a British subject—born, bred, and educated in London—and despite the fact that he was placed in office through a series of British-backed military and judicial coups, nonetheless, the decision has been made by the Thai military and retired generals in the Privy Council, all answering to London, that Abhisit is no longer useful to their broader purposes. The British have a higher target—breaking up the unity within ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), as part of the imperial project to create discord and crisis in the “ring around China.” This is the only way to understand the insane effort of the Thai military to provoke a war with neighboring Cambodia.

With the world financial system in a state of terminal collapse, the survival of the bankrupt British financial empire, centered on the Inter-Alpha Group of banks, depends on the ancient imperial mandate of “divide and conquer” to break up alliances of sovereign nations, and to force through its global financial dictates. The stability of Southeast Asia under the umbrella of ASEAN has long been on the imperial target list, largely because of ASEAN’s dogged commitment to maintain unity through respect for the sovereign rights of its ten member-states, and to maintain close relations with China.

Thailand, a founding member of ASEAN, is today the weak link in the Association, as a result of the coup carried out against the popularly elected Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in 2006, by a faction of the military which is closely aligned with the monarchy. The coup was followed by a series of dictatorial actions by the military junta and its corrupt courts to impose a British-puppet regime on the country, and to carry out several bloody crackdowns on popular opposition to the dictatorship.

Now, over the past several weeks, throw-

ing aside all pretenses of either democracy or the rule of law, the head of the Thai military has declared through its actions that the military—not the government—rules Thailand. Claiming to be defending the monarchy, it is proceeding to destroy both Thailand and ASEAN as a whole, on behalf of British imperial designs.

The Military Moves

Beginning on April 22, the military, with the support of Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya and the fascist gang of fanatic royalists known as the Yellow Shirts, has launched new military assaults on Thailand’s far poorer and weaker neighbor, Cambodia, resulting in several days of artillery exchanges, hitting targets 21 km within Cambodian territory, and leaving a dozen or more dead on the two sides. Supposedly provoked by territorial disputes which had in fact been settled by international agreements decades ago, the Thai actions



The British-controlled Thai military, now running the country, has rejected mediation of its conflict with Cambodia, despite massive international pressure. Shown: a Thai artillery station near the Thai-Cambodian border.



UN/Stephen Koh

Since the military coup against the popularly elected former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Thailand has been ruled by a corrupt monarchy, itself under the thumb of the British empire. Major infrastructure projects like those shown in Figure 1 are prime targets.

are aimed not only at using warfare as an excuse for dictatorial policies domestically, but clearly serve the imperial purpose of disrupting ASEAN itself, and intensifying the “ring around China.”

Following an earlier round of military exchanges on the Thai-Cambodian border in February, massive pressure was brought on the Thai government by the U.S. and other nations to accept Cambodia’s call for international mediation. Bangkok flatly rejected any UN intervention, but Prime Minister Abhisit reluctantly agreed to accept a mediating role from ASEAN, which is now chaired by Indonesia. After a meeting of the Thai and Cambodian sides in Indonesia, the Thai government agreed to allow ASEAN’s Indonesian observers to set up camp in the conflicted border areas.

At about the same time, Abhisit also gave in to domestic and international pressure to hold elections, which were tentatively scheduled for June.

However, the Thai military would have none of it, refusing to accept any observers, and is widely expected to sabotage the elections, knowing an election would almost certainly be won by the opposition supporters of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin. Army chief Gen. Prayuth Chan-Ocha, the architect of the bloody military crackdown against the opposition “Red Shirt” demon-

FIGURE 1
Railways and Kra Canal in South Asia



Source: EIR Special Report: The Eurasian Land-Bridge

strations last year, and a leading player in the military coup against Thaksin in 2006, has decided that the Abhisit government has become expendable. Although Prayuth has repeatedly denied any intention to carry out a coup, he has in fact carried out a cold coup by simply taking charge, ignoring the government’s decisions and orders—and, in particular, ignoring the government’s agreement to accept ASEAN observers.

Prayuth and Defense Minister Gen. Prawit Wongsuwan last even travelled to Jakarta on their own April 18 to “explain” to the Indonesians why neither the Thai government nor ASEAN will be allowed to have anything to say about the Thai military’s intention to use force against Cambodia, and that they absolutely would not allow any Indonesian (ASEAN) observers, despite their own gov-

ernment's agreement to allow such observers.

The fact that ASEAN is being told to drop dead by one of its founding members is a serious threat to the institution of ASEAN itself—which would be a victory for the British imperial design to set Asia aflame and encircle China with chaos. On April 21, three days after the generals told the Indonesians to keep out, the Thai military launched its current round of attacks on Cambodian positions across the northeast border.

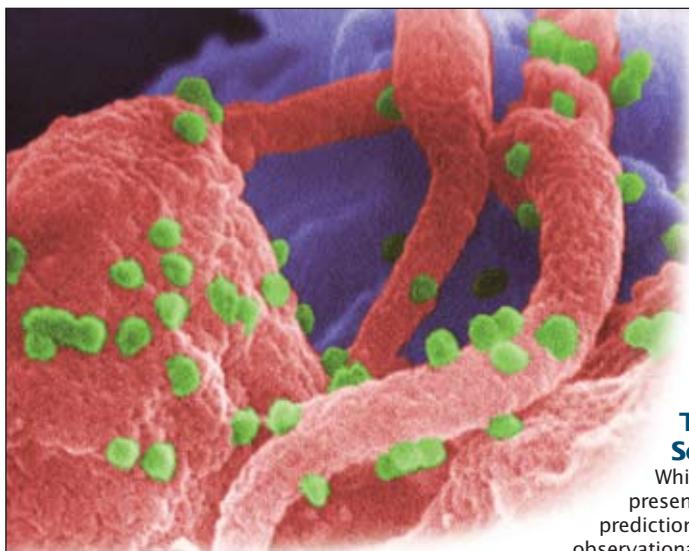
General Prayuth, hardly interested in remaining “above politics,” has openly instructed the Thai people that they must “vote to protect the monarchy,” i.e., vote against the pro-Thaksin opposition. To drive home the point, Prayuth personally directed that *lèse majesté* charges, which are deadly serious in monarchical Thailand, be brought against many of the pro-Thaksin Red Shirt leaders; 13 radio stations, associated with the opposition, were also shut down.

Among the probable casualties of this insanity are the great infrastructure development projects across the region. A primary purpose of ASEAN has been to facilitate regional infrastructure development policies, crucial if the region is to escape from the poverty which

still prevails as a legacy of the colonial era. These projects include the Mekong River development plans among Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, and China, based on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) program under President Franklin Roosevelt. Also threatened is the “Asian Railroad,” high-speed rail connections through Thailand, to be built primarily by China, both north-to-south from China through Laos and Thailand to Malaysia and Singapore, and east-to-west from China through Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand to Myanmar. Again, the British Imperialists could not be more pleased.

This fascist/monarchical cold coup in Thailand is not only a direct threat to ASEAN, but also to China and to the world, in the midst of the general collapse of the global financial system. Thailand's opposition would do well to identify the British imperial interests behind this cold (but getting hotter) coup, restore the nation's historic ties to U.S. republican forces which have helped Thailand battle the British Empire, and join the fight for a new world financial order based on Glass-Steagall principles.

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