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When I first went through the history of Southeast Asia, I found to my great surprise that Thailand was the only country in the region to escape being colonized. Naturally I sought for an explanation of this curious fact and finally came to the conclusion that in addition to several international compulsions, it was that country's progressive foreign policy which deterred the European Powers from clamping their colonial rule on it. From the very beginning of its diplomatic history Thailand kept itself neutral. However, during the Second World War circumstances forced it to join in the fighting on the side of Japan. When the war ended, it aligned itself of its own accord with the United States in order to halt the advance of Communism in the region and co-operated with that country in the military field in countering Communist activities in the Indo-Chinese countries. This provoked much criticism in various quarters. In this work, which is entitled Foreign Policy of Thailand, 1954-1971, there is, besides a discussion of Thai relations with such countries as the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Burma, and India, an attempt to assess the role of Thailand in such regional organizations as the ECAFE, the Colombo Plan, the SEATO, the ASA, the ASPAC, and the ASEAN. The aim is to discover whether Thailand, which held its own on the diplomatic front with such conspicuous success for centuries, was able to safeguard its national interests by a policy of alignments with the West.

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Many people have given me assistance in writing this work and it is a pleasure to thank them here. First of all, Dr P.K. Das, Assistant Professor in the Centre for South, South East and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University supervised my work and helped me in numerous ways. Dr Vishal Singh, Head of the South East Asian Studies Division, took a keen interest in my work and gave me his guidance whenever I sought for it. Dr Pushpesh Pant, Assistant Professor in the Diplomatic Studies Division read and commented upon my writing. Dr Bimal Prasad, Chairman of the Centre for South, South East and Central Asian Studies was fatherly in his concern for my work and welfare and gave me timely encouragement and advice. In Thailand Dr Amphorn Namatra, Director of the Institute of Asian Studies, Bangkok, helped me in meeting several important persons connected with the contemporary history of Thailand. Another renowned scholar, Professor Somsakdi Xuto, now Rector, National Institute of Development Administration, Bangkok, permitted me to interview him. Later, at my request, he gave me a letter of recommendation and enabled me to obtain the Immigration permit needed to visit the Singapore Institute for Southeast Asian Studies. I cannot forget two of my Thai language teachers, Dr Sontanah and Mr Mahaviro. I shall always remember their affectionate treatment of me.

Mrs Sirinuj Sutirasakul, Miss Sumitra, Mrs Wacharu, Mrs Kultida, Mrs Chalatip, Miss Noi tan, Miss Pal Satika
Unkul, Mr Chuti and Mr Vorayudh of the Library of the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, fully and readily co-operated with me in my search for material. So did the staff of the National Library, the Thammasat University Library, the Chulalongkorn University Library, the Chiang Mai University Library, and the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge Library (all in Thailand), the Singapore University Library; Singapore, Malayan University Library; Kuala Lumpur, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Library and the Sapru House Library (both in New Delhi).

Mr Brajendra Jha, Miss S.R. Sudhamani, Dr B.D. Arora, Dr K. Labh, Miss Sayeeda Bano, Miss Ruby Roy, Mr T.P. Bhat, Dr Lok Raj Baral, Mr M.B. Nair, Mr Muthuswamy, Mr V.S. Sheth, Mr J.K. Baral and others made my stay in Delhi memorable by their love and lively friendship.

I express my thanks to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, for granting me research scholarships.

Finally I am indebted to the co-operation of my affectionate wife - Mrs Premata Jha - whose love, understanding and encouragement are the secrets behind the timely completion of my thesis.

New Delhi, July 26, 1975.

GANGANATH JHA