

ABSTRACT

The Distribution of Ownership in the Thai Big Business

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The purpose of this research is to study the pattern of ownership and the monopoly power of big business firms in the Thai economy. The analysis focuses on some major sectors and investigates the business concentration and interlocking among the big business groups. The role and the influence of foreign companies are also included in the study.

The basic data are collected from the Ministry of Commerce. The financial statements and the list of shareholders of all limited companies during the period 1978 - 1979 were analyzed. More than one thousand companies belonging to the major business groups are covered.

The findings are that the degree of concentration in all major business sectors are very high and the foreign companies have played an important role in the Thai economy, particularly in the industrial sector.

With regard to business expansion and interlocking among major groups, it is found that financial institutions have had a major role. All major business groups are interlocked to commercial bank and financial companies. In addition to high economic growth, the government's economic policies in the past two decades have also promoted high business concentration and high degree of monopoly power.