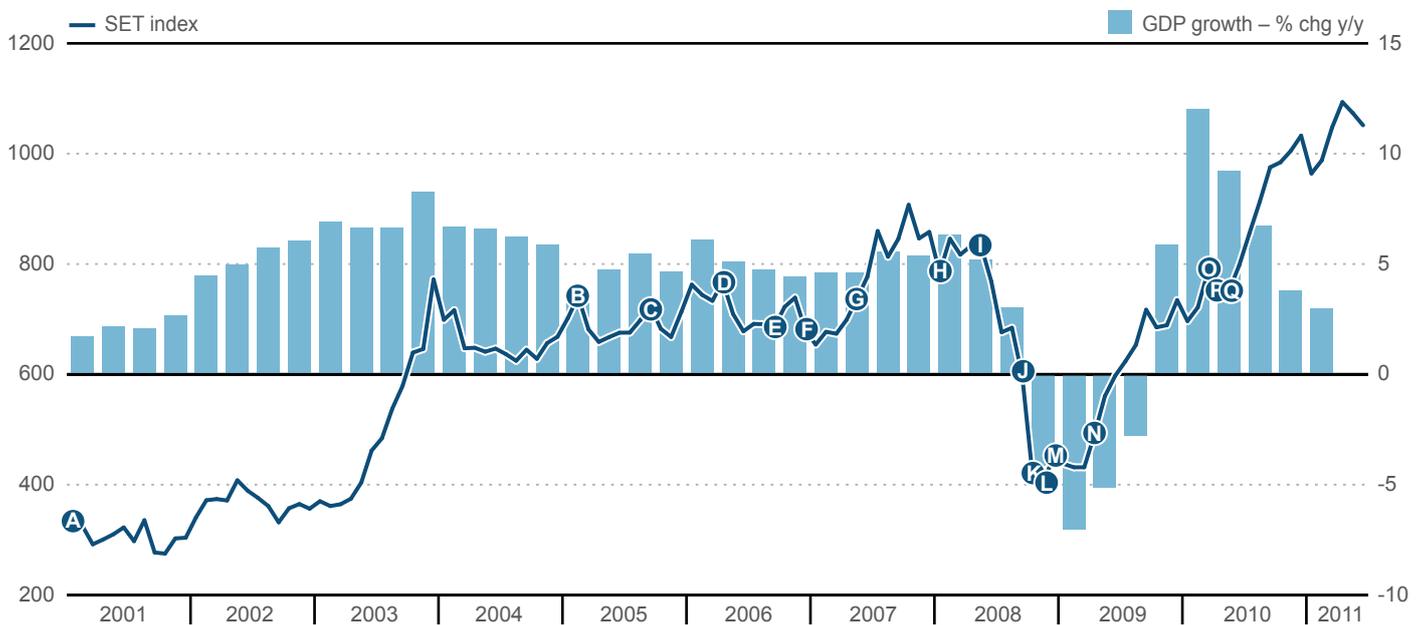


# Major developments in Thailand's political crisis

More unrest and policy paralysis are likely as Thailand prepares for early elections. The country has suffered five years of political turbulence and sporadic street violence after former premier Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted in a 2006 coup. Thaksin currently commands a powerful opposition movement, standing in the way of current prime minister, Abhisit Vejjajiva.



## 2001

**A January 6**  
Thaksin Shinawatra's Thais Love Thais (Thai Rak Thai) party wins 248 of 500 seats in parliamentary election.

## 2005

**B February 6**  
Thailand voters hand Thaksin Shinawatra a second term with expanded mandate.

**C September**  
Sondhi Limthongkul, a former Thaksin business associate, starts the yellow-shirted People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) street campaign to oust Thaksin.

## 2006

**D April 2**  
Thaksin wins a snap election called to silence Sondhi. A court later nullifies the result.

**E September 19**  
Military stages a coup while Thaksin is at the United Nations in New York. He goes into exile in London.

**F December 19**  
Thai stock exchange plunges 14.8 percent, its biggest one-day drop since 1990, a day after Bank of Thailand chief announces stringent capital controls to stem the baht's rise.

## 2007

**G May 30**  
Thaksin's party dissolved for breaking election laws. He and 110 senior party members are banned from politics for five years.

**H December 23**  
The pro-Thaksin People Power Party (PPP) falls just short of outright majority in a general election.

## 2008

**I May 25**  
PAD resumes street protests to overthrow what it says is a "Thaksin puppet government".

## 2008 cont...

**J September**  
Samak found guilty of violating constitution by hosting TV cooking shows while in office and had to quit. Somchai Wongsawat, Thaksin's brother-in-law at the time, is elected prime minister by parliament.

**K October 21**  
The Supreme Court sentences Thaksin to two years in jail in absentia for breaking a conflict-of-interest law.

**L November 25**  
PAD protesters storm Bangkok's main airport, halting all flights. Up to 250,000 foreign tourists are stranded.

**M December**  
Constitutional Court disbands the PPP and bans Somchai from politics for five years for electoral fraud. PAD protesters end airport blockade. Opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva, becomes third prime minister in as many months.

## 2009

**N April**  
The ASEAN summit is cancelled after red-shirt protesters storm part of the conference venue. Some of the 15 visiting leaders are evacuated by helicopter. Abhisit declares a state of emergency in Bangkok and Thaksin calls for a "people's revolution". Army moves in on Government House. Protesters end three-week siege but "red shirts" vow to return.

## 2010

**O March 14**  
Up to 150,000 protesters hold mass rally at the Phan Fah bridge in Bangkok's old quarter.

**P April 10**  
Troops attempt to break up protest, 25 people killed and more than 800 wounded in the country's worst political violence in 18 years.

**Q May 19**  
After four days of deadly street fighting, troops move in to end demonstrations and more than 30 buildings were set on fire. A total of 91 people killed and nearly were 2,000 wounded over April-May.