Regime Changes

• Unstable authoritarianism
• Unstable democracy
• Semi-democracy
• Fuller democracy
The Economic Crisis

• Remarkable economic development until the mid-1990s
• Techonocrats’ macroeconomic reform
  – Financial liberalization
  – Borrowing--Short-term loans
• Property boom and its end in 1996
• Collapse of baht in July 1997
• Chavalit Youngchaiyudh
  – Indecisiveness, immobilism, and corruption
  <=fragmented party system
• IMF rescue
Democratic Consolidation after the crisis?

1. minimalist; polyarchy, persistence
   a. elite unity
   b. civil liberty
   c. elections

2. the rule of law, government responsiveness, popular participation, social equality
   a. institutional design
   b. parliamentary rule
   c. party systems
   d. administrative decentralization
Reform after the crisis

• Single-member district elections
  – For party consolidation

• Rules for no-confidence vote
  – Needs to have successor

• Horizontal accountability
  – Elections commissions to investigate politicians
Consolidation?

- Seriousness in elections
- Less vote-buying
- Investigations of political leader’s illegal activities
  - Thaksin, Thai Rak Thai, was investigated and indicted for corruption
- Limit
  - Continued vote-buying
  - Thaksin’s ascension to prime ministership
  - Thani Rak Thai’s populist orientation
Thai politics

• Structural fragmentation
  – Elite
  – Party

• Political instability
  – Authoritarianism
  – Unconsolidated democracy