

King Bhumibol 1927-2016

■ **Dec 5, 1927:** Born in U.S. while father, **Prince Mahidol**, is studying at Harvard. Educated mainly in Switzerland

■ **1946:** **Bhumibol Adulyadej** accedes to throne on death – possibly murder – of older brother **King Ananda Mahidol**

■ **1950:** Marries cousin **Sirikit**, daughter of Thai ambassador to France. Crowned king after completing studies in politics and law but has little real power



■ **1957-63:** Monarchy revitalized under dictatorship of **Sarit Dhanarajata** – Bhumibol becomes revered figure

■ **1973:** Amid massive pro-democracy protests, king makes first intervention into politics by withdrawing support for military rule of **Thanom Kittikachorn**

■ **1980s:** Gradual democratisation process overseen by king and army chief, **General Prem Tinsulanonda**



■ **1992:** King again intervenes to restore democracy, allaying fears of return to military dictatorship after 17th coup in 60 years

■ **2004:** Bhumibol's 21-year-old grandson dies in Asian tsunami

■ **2006:** King calls on judiciary to resolve political crisis over leadership of prime minister **Thaksin Shinawatra**. Thaksin eventually deposed in bloodless coup, in which military pledges allegiance to king

■ **2006-08:** Lavish celebrations mark Diamond Jubilee and 80th birthday

■ **2014:** Now increasingly frail, king endorses **Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha** as prime minister following another military coup

■ **Oct 13, 2016:** King Bhumibol, world's longest-reigning monarch, dies after 70 years on throne