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denly the country's chief political activists. Their new strength attracted the CPT's interest.

Before 1973, Thai Communists were hobbled by the government's rural anti-guerrilla operations and by the arrest of several key members in 1968. It concentrated its efforts in the hinterland, write Morell and Samudavanija, who teach political science at Princeton and at Thailand's Chulalongkorn University, respectively. But, after 1973, in the new liberal climate, the party was free to proselytize among the students. Its agents distributed party publications on the campuses and emphasized to student leaders that the egalitarian society they envisioned could only be achieved by violent revolt.

Impatient with the slow pace of reform and alarmed by increasing violence from the Right, students from Bangkok began visiting the 250 Communist-controlled hamlets in the Northeast, North, and South. By 1975, some 1,000 had gotten weapons training and indoctrination at remote camps. Student publications soon attacked "U.S. imperialism," "foreign capitalists and investors," and "the liberal democratic forms of government," terms borrowed from party rhetoric. In 1975, official estimates put CPT membership at 10,000 insurgents and 7,000 civilian supporters, many of them students. When a 1976 coup returned the military to power, still others joined the Communists hiding out in the hills.

A Red takeover is not imminent; in Thailand (pop. 40 million), military repression has hampered activity. But the authors claim that the party's prospects have been vastly improved by the influx of energetic young ex-students capable of formulating strategy and coordinating rural guerrillas and urban dissidents. "To a great extent," they conclude, "the future of Thailand now rests in their hands."

Sadat's Egypt

"The Struggle for Egypt's Soul" by Fouad Ajami, in *Foreign Policy* (Summer 1979), P.O. Box 984, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737.

A reluctance to realistically assess the future pervades Anwar el-Sadat's Egypt. Strongly conscious of their roots in the Middle East, Egyptians have become isolated from other Arab nations and increasingly dependent on the United States and the West.

Egyptians have long considered their homeland the leader of the Arab world, writes Ajami, a Princeton political scientist. They point to its relatively developed economy, sophisticated cities, and a history of civilization unmatched by its neighbors. The country's self-confidence was shattered, however, by defeat in Gamal Abdel Nasser's 1967 Six-Day War against Israel. The war was supposed to cement Egypt's leadership in the region. Instead, it resulted in Israeli occupation of the Sinai and a national "identity crisis" that simmered on until Sadat ordered the assault on Israel in 1973. No matter, Ajami says, that Sadat had to call on Henry Kissinger to save Egypt's Third Army after the

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Egypt's President Anwar el-Sadat, his critics charge, has turned his country away from its Arab heritage.



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counterattacking Israelis crossed the Suez Canal. The 1973 war, for Egyptians, regained Egypt's honor and prestige, and made Sadat a hero.

After the war, Sadat's penchant for dramatic, solo diplomatic gestures (his 1977 trip to Jerusalem, for example) offended the sensibilities of other Arabs, particularly the close-knit, conservative Saudi Arabians. He was soon "isolated from his brethren," Ajami says. And what began as a "dialogue" with the United States has ended in an "embrace" of Western values that has eroded Sadat's support at home. Among the disenchanted are Egypt's Moslem conservatives and the Nasserites, who remain true to the dream of pan-Arabism.

Meanwhile, Sadat has virtually ignored his country's domestic problems—poverty, crowded cities, a sluggish bureaucracy. Opposition to Sadat will grow, Ajami concludes. In the name of Islam and Arab authenticity, challengers to Sadat will arise, attacking him for imposing a Western veneer over Egypt's Arab "soul."

Israel's Woes

"Israel's Economic Plight" by Ann Crittendon, in *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1979), P.O. Box 2615, Boulder, Colo. 80322.

After two wars, Israel's economy is in serious straits, writes Crittendon, economics specialist for the *New York Times*.

The statistics are grim. Prices rose almost 50 percent in 1978. The national debt stands at \$12.5 billion, the world's largest per capita. The