

# Sulak Sivaraksa

## DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

27 March 1933, Bangkok

## NATIONALITY

Thai

## EDUCATION

1958 Bachelor of Arts/ St. David's University College/ Wales

1961 Barrister-at-Law/ The Middle Temple/ London

1978 Post-Doctorate Grant/ Social Science Research Council/ New York

## HONOURS AND DEGREES *(in correct order)*

### Important Awards

- 1991 awarded by the Society of Thai Publishers & Distributors as a pioneer in both fields since
- 1993 Sriburapa Award for being a distinguished author dedicating for social justice during the last 30 years
- 1995 The Right Livelihood Award / Sweden
- 1996 Honorary Fellow, University of Wales (Lampeter)
- 1998 The Unrepresented Nation and People Organization (UNPO) for deep commitment to peace and nonviolence / Taiwan
- 2001 Gandhi Millennium Award
- 2008 Honorary D. Litt, University of Higher Tibetan Studies, India
- 2009 Awarded for the most distinguished Buddhist Layman dedicated social justice and peace, Sri Lanka

## FAMILY

Married, 3 children

## CAREER TO DATE *(including present occupation)*

- 1957 BBC broadcasting at Bush House/ London
- 1959 Teaching Assistant at the School of Oriental and African Studies/ University of London
- 1959 Teacher at St. Godrick's College/ Hampstead
- 1962 Lecturer: Thammasat/ Chulalongkorn/ Silpakorn and Mahidol Universities/ Bangkok
- 1962 Translator at British Information Service/ Bangkok
- 1963 - 1969 Founding Editor/ Social Science Review, the most influential publication in Thailand and played crucial role in awakening the student awareness
- 1963 -1976 Honorary Editor of Visakha Puja, annual publication of the Buddhist Association of Thailand
- 1968 Founder and President of Satheirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation
- 1971 Founder and President of the Komol Keemthong Foundation
- 1977-1978 Visiting Professor: University of California/ Berkeley/ Cornell University/ University of Toronto, University of Hawaii
- 1979-1986 Former Coordinator and Chairperson of the Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD)
- 1980 - present Founder and Director of the Thai Inter-Religious Commission for Development (TICD) and its resource center/ under Satheirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation
- 1985 Founder of Wongsanit Ashram (an intentional community for simple living and for engaging in social action and spiritual practice)
- 1986 Founder and Director of Santi Prachadhamma Institute / an non-governmental/ non-profit Thai institution for research/ training/ propagation and community activities/

under Sathairakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation  
 1989 - pres Founder of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB)  
 Asia Society, New York , International Advisor  
 19 March Thai Kadhi Studies Center celebrated 60 birthday for Sulak Sivaraksa at  
 1993 Thammasat University, Bangkok  
 16-20 Nov Permanent Tribunal of Peoples: Session on Tibet at the Palais des Congres, seat of the  
 1993 Council of Europe and the European Parliament, in Strasbourg, France  
 1993 Founder's Award at Naropa Institute, an equivalent of an honorary degree  
 3 Dec Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Industrial Hazards and Human Rights An International  
 1994 Tribunal to Mark the Tenth Anniversary of the Bhopal Disaster at House of Lords, London  
 1995 - Founder and Director of Spirit in Education Movement/ a nongovernmental organization  
 present to promote alternative education for adults/ under Sathairakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation  
 1998 Chief Advisor to the organizers of the world artists for Tibet exhibition, Bangkok  
 1999 -2000 Patron for the Global World Festival of Sacred Music appointed by the Dalai Lama  
 2000 Partner of World Festival of Sacred Music: A Global Quest for Unison, Chiangmai, Thailand  
 28 July Founder of Pauy Forum at Wat Patumkongka, Songwad Rd. Bangkok. To conscientise the  
 2001 new generation of social concern and to help young children to grow up in art and beauty  
 2001 Chair, Suan Nguen Mee Ma Company - Garden of Fruition "Sustainable Community Venture"  
 2 Nov Foundation for Textbooks on the Social Sciences & Humanities celebrated  
 2003 70th birthday for Sulak Sivaraksa at Rungarun School  
 26 -27 Nov Grassroots Movement celebrate 72nd birthday for Sulak Sivaraksa at Silpakorn University,  
 2005 Bangkok, with music festival and intellectual symposium  
 2010 Member of the people's Tribunal against the Crime on humanity.

## WRITING CAREER

Sulak has written more than 100 books and monographs in Thai and English

## LANGUAGES

Thai, English

## SPECIAL INTERESTS OR PURSUITS OTHER THAN PUBLISHERS

## DETAILS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS

## PLACES IN WHICH YOU HAVE LIVED FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME

In which areas are you best known?

Schumacher College, Totnes, Devon

## Biographical Sketch

Please write a general summary which can be used as a basis for the copy on the jacket of your book, information to our sales representatives, the press, television, radio, etc. Emphasise any 'human interest' aspects and interesting personal anecdotes:-

Sulak Sivaraksa, born in 1933, is a prominent and outspoken Thai intellectual and social critic. He is a scholar, publisher, activist, founder of many organizations, and author of more than a hundred books and monographs in both Thai and English, including *Seeds of Peace: A Buddhist Vision for Renewing Society* and *Conflict, Culture, Change: Engaged Buddhism in a Globalizing World*.

Educated in England and Wales and in a Buddhist monastery in his native Siam, Sulak founded

*Sangkhomsaat Paritat* (Social Science Review) in 1963, and it became his country's foremost intellectual magazine, addressing the most important political and social issues during a time of military dictatorship. His work editing *Sangkhomsaat Paritat* led him to become engaged with grassroots organizations, where he learned the importance of staying in touch with the poor. Beginning in the late 1960s, he participated in a number of service-oriented, rural development projects, in association with Buddhist monks and student activists.

During the 1970s, Sulak became the central figure in a number of non-governmental organizations in Siam, including the Komol Keemthong foundation (named for a young teacher killed in 1971), the Pridi Banomyong Institute (named for the father of Thai democracy), the Slum Childcare foundation, the Coordinating Group for Religion and Society, the Thai Inter-Religious Commission for Development, and Santi Pracha Dhamma Institute. Through his involvement with these organizations, Sulak began to develop indigenous, sustainable, and spiritual models for change. Since then he has expanded his work to regional and international levels. He cofounded the Asian Cultural forum on Development, the International Network of engaged Buddhists, and the Spirit in education Movement.

In 1976, Siam experienced its bloodiest coup. Hundreds of students were killed and thousands were jailed. The military burned the entire stock of Sulak's bookshop and issued an order for his arrest. Sulak was forced into exile and remained outside the country for two years. During that time, he served as a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley; Cornell University; the University of Toronto; and throughout Europe; and was able to continue his activist work in the West.

In 1984, he was arrested in Bangkok on charges of criticizing the king (*lèse majesté*), but international protests led to his release. In 1991, another warrant was issued for his arrest, and Sulak was forced into political exile once again. He returned to fight the case in the court in 1992 and won in 1995. At the end of 1995, he was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, known as Alternative Nobel Peace Prize.

Sulak Sivaraksa sees Buddhism as a questioning process—question everything including oneself, look deeply, and then act from that insight. He has been one of a handful of leaders worldwide working to revive the socially engaged aspects of spirituality. At the core of his work is the mission to build new leadership for change at all levels. Sulak offers a unique perspective on how to work for peaceful, sustainable social change using the principles and practices of Buddhism as a personal and political resource. He has demonstrated that a life of contemplation and a life of political action can illuminate, inform, and encourage each other, and in fact, in his view, both are essential if either is to change for the better.

For more information, visit [www.wisdomofsustainability.com](http://www.wisdomofsustainability.com) and [www.sulak-sivaraksa.org/en/](http://www.sulak-sivaraksa.org/en/)

## Published Work

Please give dates, publisher, type of work

### BOOKS

*Published in the U.S.*

The Wisdom of Sustainability: Buddhist Economics for the 21st Century (Koa Books, 2009)

Conflict Culture Change: Engaged Buddhism in a Globalizing World (Wisdom Publications, 2005)

Loyalty Demands Dissent: Autobiography of an Engaged Buddhist (Parallax Press, 1998)

Seeds of Peace: A Buddhist Vision for Renewing Society (Parallax Press, 1992)

*Published in Thailand (in English)*

Alternative To Consumerism From A Siamese Buddhist Perspective

Socially Engaged Buddhism

Socially Engaged Spirituality Essays in Honor of Sulak Sivaraksa on His 70th Birthday  
Santi Pracha Dhamma Essays in honour of the late Puey Ungphakorn  
TRANS THAI BUDDHISM & Envisioning Resistance : The Engaged Buddhism of Sulak A Tale  
About People and Pipeline  
Social Engaged Buddhism For the New Millennium  
Powers That Be : Pridi Banomyong thought the rise and fall of Thai democracy  
Global Healing  
Modern Thai Monarchy and Culture Politics  
A BUDDHIST VISION FOR RENEWING SOCIETY  
A SOCIALLY ENGAGED BUDDHISM  
BUDDHIST PERCEPTION FOR DESIRABLE SOCIETIES IN THE FUTURE  
FIVE CYCLES OF FRIENDSHIP  
When Loyalty Demands Dissent  
SEARCHING FOR ASIAN CULTURAL INTEGRITY  
Siam in Crisis  
THE QUEST FOR JUST SOCIETY  
WHEN LOYALTY DEMANDS DISENT  
Religion and Development  
A Buddhist Vision for Renewing Society  
Siamese Resurgence

**PLAYS, FILMS, SHORT STORIES, ARTICLES AND ANY OTHER WRITING**

Please give names of magazines, newspapers, etc., to which you contribute at all regularly:-  
Seeds of Peace (published in Bangkok)

Please give details of translation or serialisation of any of your previous works:-  
Not Available. If this is important, please contact Parallax Press, Berkeley, California.