

## The Role of Law in the Developing States of Southeast Asia

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The Article discusses the gradual acceptance of the principles of the Rule of Law among Southeast Asian countries in the post-colonial era. It describes the need of these states to establish a Rule of Law where civil and political rights of the people are safeguarded in the context of stable and flourishing economic, social, and cultural conditions. It cites specific problems such as population, absence of an effective opposition, lack of confidence in the law, and insufficient education of the masses as factors which contribute to the non-formation of the Rule of Law in these countries. Consequently, it provides that there is an imperative for the establishment in the region of a genuine representative government. It ends by emphasizing the different obligations that individual lawyers must fulfill in order to contribute to this end: to defend the civil and political rights of the citizens; to work for the repeal or amendment of unjust laws; to assist in the administration and execution of the laws; and to educate and teach future lawyers.