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The King Is Honored

The King is the most honored and respected person. He is spiritual leader of his people, defender of the faith, and symbol of Thailand's culture. His picture and that of the royal family are widely displayed. At the end of movies, plays, receptions, and other public gatherings, the King's Anthem is played and everyone stands at respectful attention.

The present ruling monarch is King Bhumibol Adulyadej (pronounced Poom-ee-pon Adun-ya-det), the only monarch ever born in the United States. He was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 36 years ago, while his father, Prince Mahidol, studied medicine at Harvard. The King was educated in Switzerland and is thoroughly familiar with Western culture and ways. He is a fine musician and very fond of jazz. Accomplished on the clarinet and saxophone, the King has played with several <sup>top</sup> American name bands that have visited his country.