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Trends. Bahtmen to the Rescue: A Psychology of Altruism in Thailand

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Do unto others as thou wouldst have them do unto you. A way to live one's life? Maybe. But if this saying underlies how we live, there is no way to help others that is not instrumental or modeling behavior geared to help the self.

A case in point is the recent billion dollar rescue of the Thai financial system and its currency, the baht. Yes, the Thai government is being helped. But so are the helpers. (1) Thailand may be more easily able to pay for imports. (2) Thai foreign debt obligations may be more likely met. (3) The currency crisis that has been affecting Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and threatening other Asian countries may be more easily managed through convincing currency speculators that the International Monetary Fund and a group of Asian countries will do what's necessary for international and collective Asian welfare. (4) Foreign investors may more likely continue to depend on Thailand as a significant regional manufacturing and export base.