

F5027090

001800  
外文书库

# A HISTORY OF SIAM

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE  
YEAR A.D. 1781, WITH A SUPPLEMENT  
DEALING WITH MORE RECENT EVENTS.

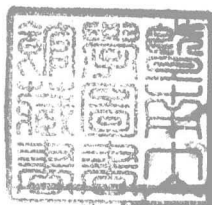
By W. A. R. WOOD, C.M.G., C.I.E.,  
Late H. B. M. Consul-General, Chiangmai.



ILLUSTRATED

Revised Edition

1933



THE SIAM BARNAKICH PRESS  
NEW ROAD, SIKAK PHYA SRI,  
BANGKOK

¥12.00  
0078254

*First impression published in 1926*

*Second        „        „        1933*

*All rights reserved*

---

K 336.0  
WWAR

社 科

TO  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
PRINCE DAMRONG RAJANUBHAB,  
THIS BOOK  
IS  
BY PERMISSION  
RESPECTFULLY AND GRATEFULLY  
DEDICATED



## PREFACE

to the second edition.

---

This book has been out of print for some time, and I have received constant applications from correspondents all over the world for information as to where copies can be obtained. In response, therefore, to what seems to be a fairly widespread demand, I have decided to publish a second edition; and as I am now settled in Siam, the new edition is, with the kind cooperation of Phya Nibondh Bachanattha, being issued in Bangkok.

I have corrected a few errors—mostly trivial—to which various critics were good enough to call my attention, and have altered one paragraph which called down upon me some rather censorious remarks from one Bishop, two Vicars, and a Curate.

Some critics suggested that I should give more copious notes, in particular as to my authorities for various statements. I regret that I cannot do this without altering the character of the book, which is intended primarily for the general reader, rather than for the student or specialist.

As for the history of modern Siam, that must, I fear, remain sketchy for the present, though I still have hopes of dealing with it in greater detail some day.

Chiangmai,

June 10th. 1933.



## PREFACE

to the original edition.

---

This book is the first attempt which has ever been made to compile, in a European language, a history of Siam, from the earliest times down to a comparatively modern period. My intention in writing it was to provide a handy book of reference for Europeans who are unacquainted with the main facts of Siamese history, and have no time or desire to delve them out for themselves from among a mass of contradictory documents.

I have tried to relate rather than to dilate, and have not, I hope, obtruded my own opinions to an unreasonable extent. I am aware that I shall be accused of showing a pro-Siamese bias in many parts of this book. I may as well, therefore, at once plead guilty to this charge. I have written as a friend of Siam and the Siamese, among whom I have spent the best years of my life.

It will, I think, be frankly admitted that the Siamese have some right to feel a pride in the history of their country. It is the story of a collection of more or less uncultivated immigrants from Southern China, who settled in the country now known as Siam, overcoming a mighty Empire, and establishing a number of free States, which became finally fused into the Siam of to-day. We see them humbled to the dust again and again by a more powerful neighbour, yet always rising up and regaining their freedom. A hundred years ago there were dozens of independent States in South-Eastern Asia. To-day there remains but one—Siam. Those who believe in the survival of the fittest will admit that the Siamese, whatever their faults, must possess some special



qualities which have marked them out to maintain this unique position.

People who are interested in fairies, goblins, giants, magic talismans, and the like will not find much to please them in this book. There are plenty of supernatural beings and events to be met with in native histories, but I have preferred, even at the sacrifice of picturesqueness, to stick to prosaic facts.

My original intention was to bring my work to an end with the accession of the first king of the dynasty now reigning. For the sake of convenience I have, however, added a brief Supplement, giving the main events of the history of the kingdom down to the present time. I do not consider myself well qualified to write a detailed history of modern Siam ; if, however, nobody else undertakes the task, I may perhaps attempt it at a later date.

I have received a very great amount of kind assistance, notably from Professor G. Coedès and from Mr. G. E. Harvey, I.C.S. My deepest gratitude is, however, due to His Royal Highness Prince Damrong Rajanubhab, whose researches alone have made it possible for me to undertake this work, and whose help and advice have been of incalculable value.

CHIENGMAI,

*June 30th, 1924.*

## CONTENTS

### INTRODUCTION

	PAGE
Various versions of Siamese History ( <i>Pongsawadan</i> )	
—Carved inscriptions—Old European authorities—	
Modern Works consulted—Transliteration of Siamese	
names . . . . .	23

### CHAPTER I

Early Tai tribes in Southern China—Affinity between Tai and Chinese languages—Ancient references to Tai in Chinese history—State of Nanchao—Records of Tai rulers of Nanchao from A.D. 650 to 884—Kublai Khan conquers Nanchao—Migrations of the Tai— Habits and customs of the Tai of Nanchao . . . . .	31
---	----

### CHAPTER II

Prehistoric inhabitants of Siam—The Sakai—The Was or Lawas—The Khmers—Indian civilisation in Cam- bodia—Missionaries of King Asoka—Suvarnabhumi —Missionaries of King Kanishka—Nak'on Prat'om— Missionaries of King Ciladitya—Ancient Kings of Cambodia—Famous Cambodian temples—Ambassa- dor sent by Kublai Khan to Cambodia . . . . .	40
---	----

## PAGE

## CHAPTER III

Early Tai settlers in Siam—Conquests of Prince P'rohm	
—First Tai city founded at Müang Fang—Luang P'ra-	
bang—Conquests of King Anurutha of Burma—Payao	
founded—Suk'ot'ai captured by Tai from Cambodians	
—King Sri Int'arat'itya—King Ramk'amheng the Great	
—His kingdom—Submission of Pegu—King Ram-	
k'amheng visits China—King Mengrai founds Chieng-	
mai—King Ramk'amheng's character—His adminis-	
tration of justice—Inventor of Siamese alphabet—	
King Loet'ai—Disintegration of kingdom of Suk'ot'ai	
—King T'ammaraaja Lüt'ai—His noble character—	
Suk'ot'ai submits to Ayut'ia—Later Kings of Su-	
k'otai . . . . .	49

## CHAPTER IV

King Rama T'ibodi I founds Ayut'ia—His supposed	
origin—Extent of his dominions—War with Cambo-	
dia—War with Suk'ot'ai—Law of Evidence—Law on	
Offences against the Government—Law on Receiving	
Plaints—Law on Abduction—Law on Offences	
Against the People—Law Concerning Robbers—Law	
on Miscellaneous Matters—Law of Husband and	
Wife—Death of King Rama T'ibodi I . . . . .	62

## CHAPTER V

King Ramesuen—His abdication, and accession of King	
Boromaraja I—Relations with China—Wars with	
Suk'ot'ai—War with Chiengmai—Death of King	
Boromaraja I—King T'ong Lan killed by ex-King	



Ramesuen, who resumes power—War with Chieng-mai—Conquest of Cambodia—Death of King Ramesuen and accession of King Ram Raja—King Ram Raja deposed—King Int'araja I—War with Chiengmai—Relations with China—Death of King Int'araja—Fight for the throne, and accession of late King's youngest son . . . . . 70

## CHAPTER VI

King Boromaraja II—War with Cambodia—War with Maharaja Tilok of Chiengmai—King Boromaraja II dies, and is succeeded by King Trailokanat—Reforms in administration—Sakdi Na Law—Palace Law—War with Chiengmai—Expedition to Malacca—Capital moved to P'itsanulok—War continued against Chiengmai—Battle of Doi Ba—King Trailokanat becomes a priest—Siamese Ambassadors to Chiengmai massacred—Maha Uparat appointed—End of War with Chiengmai—Death of Maharaja Tilok—Emerald Buddha—Capture of Tavoy—Death of King Trailokanat—His character . . . . . 81

## CHAPTER VII

King Boromaraja III—King Rama T'ibodi II—Trouble with Chiengmai—Gigantic image of Buddha cast—War with Chiengmai—Relations with Portuguese—Successes against Chiengmai—Reorganisation of system of military service—King Boromaraja IV—Boy King Ratsada—King P'rajai—Canals dug—Law for Trial by Ordeal—War with Burma—First invasion of Chiengmai by King P'rajai—Fire at Ayut'ia—Second

invasion of Chiengmai—Severe defeat—Death of King P'rajai—His character—Note on Pinto's <i>Peregrinations</i> . . . . .	95
---	----

## CHAPTER VIII

Young King Keo Fa—His mother becomes Regent—Her intrigue with K'un Jinarat—Murder of King Keo Fa—K'un Jinarat usurps throne with title of K'un Worawongsa—Conspiracy against him—K'un Worawongsa and Princess Regent killed, and Prince T'ien proclaimed King, with title of King Chakrap'at—First Burmese invasion—Death of Queen Suriyot'ai—Burmese retire—King Chakrap'at's preparations for further invasion—Unsuccessful invasion of Cambodia—Rebellion of Prince Sri Sin—King Bhureng NOUNG of Burma conquers Chiengmai—Second Burmese invasion—Arduous terms imposed by Burmese—Rebellion of Rajah of Patani—Siamese Princess, sent to Luang P'rabang, is captured by Burmese—Prince Mahin becomes Regent—Trouble with Maha T'amaraja, Governor of P'itsanulok—King Chakrap'at resumes power—Third Burmese invasion—Death of King Chakrap'at—His character—King Mahin's mismanagement—Ayut'ia falls through treachery—Death of King Mahin—Maha T'amaraja set up by Burmese as vassal King of Siam . . . . .	108
--	-----

## CHAPTER IX

Siam under Burmese rule—Cambodian invasion—Prince Naresuen—Burmese invade Wiengchan—Tharawadi Min becomes Prince of Chiengmai—Rebellion of Yan
--

## CONTENTS

13

### PAGE

Prajien—Death of Bhureng Nong of Burma—Prince Naresuen in Burma—Plot to murder Prince Naresuen—He declares Siam independent—Burmese defeats—Alliance with Cambodia—Burmese invasion fails—Prince of Chiengmai defeated—Quarrel with Prince of Cambodia—Burmese again invade Siam and besiege Ayut'ia—They fail and retire—Prince Naresuen invades Cambodia—Death of King Maha T'amaraja—His character . . . . .	126
---	-----

## CHAPTER X

King Naresuen—His brother made Maha Uparat—Burmese invasion repulsed—Further Burmese invasion—King Naresuen slays Crown Prince of Burma in single combat—Siamese take Tenasserim and Tavoy—Naval battle—Depopulation of Siam—King Naresuen offers to assist China against Japan—Cambodia invaded and subdued—King Naresuen invades Burma and conquers part of Pegu—Treaty with Spain—Chiengmai under Siamese suzerainty—King Naresuen again invades Burma—King of Burma taken to Taungu—Hanthawadi sacked by Arakanese—King Naresuen invades Taungu—He fails, and returns to Siam—Affairs at Chiengmai—Prince Srisup'anma made King of Cambodia—King Naresuen invades Shan States—His death at Müang Hang—His character . . . . .	139
---	-----

## CHAPTER XI

King Ekat'otsarot—His taxes—Dutch, Portuguese, and Japanese in Siam—Execution of Prince Sut'at—Death
--

of King Ekat'otsarot—His character—King Songt'am—Japanese attack Palace and force concessions from King—Luang P'rabang invasion—Japanese subdued and Luang P'rabang army defeated—First English merchants and ships in Siam—System of trading—Trouble with Burma—Tavoy captured by Burmese, but retaken—Burmese invade Chiengmai territory and take Lampang—Treaty between Siam and Burma—Naval battle between English and Dutch at Patani—Disastrous invasion of Cambodia—Relations with Japan—Discovery of P'rabat or footprint of Buddha—King Songt'am's illness ; intrigues as to succession—Death of King Songt'am—His character . 158

## CHAPTER XII

King Jett'a—P'ya Kalahom's origin and history—Prince Sri Sin's rebellion and execution—P'ya Kalahom dethrones and executes King Jett'a—Yamada and P'ya Kalahom—King At'ityawong—Yamada at Nak'on Srit'ammarat—King At'ityawong executed—P'ya Kalahom usurps throne as King Prasat T'ong—Expulsion of Japanese—Trouble with Patani—Affairs at Chiengmai—Relations with the Dutch—Expedition to Nak'on Srit'ammarat—Barbarities of King Prasat T'ong—Unsuccessful attacks on Patani—Patani submits—Dutch maltreated—King Prasat T'ong tries to alter calendar—Quarrel with the Dutch—Letter from Prince of Orange—Expeditions to Singora—Law of Appeal—Law on Debt Slavery—Law of Inheritance—Law of Debt—Anti-foreign legislation—King Prasat

T'ong and Cambodia—Death of King Prasat T'ong— His character . . . . .	172
---	-----

## CHAPTER XIII

King Jai—His deposition and execution—King Sri Sut'ammaraaja—Attack on the Palace—The King deposed and executed—King Narai—Trouble in Cambodia—English merchants flee from Cambodia to Siam—English factory reopened at Ayut'ia—Events in Burma—King Narai invades Chiengmai territory—P'ya Kosa T'ibodi reforms Siamese Army—Second invasion of Chiengmai, and capture of city—War with Burma—King Narai invades Pegu—Dutch blockade of Menam River—Treaty with Dutch—French missionaries arrive in Siam—Favour shown to them—Progress of French Mission, and relations with France—Constantine Phaulkon—His rise to power—His policy displeases East India Company—More French Missionaries—French company opens factory at Ayut'ia—First Siamese Embassy to Europe—Ship bearing Embassy lost—King Narai and the English—Patani and Singora—Potts, the East India Company's Agent, quarrels with Phaulkon—Company's factory burnt—Strangh and Yale visit Siam—They quarrel with Phaulkon—Second Siamese Embassy visits France and England—English commercial mission to Ayut'ia—First French Embassy to Siam—Treaty between France and Siam—Attempts to convert King Narai to Christianity—His reply—Disputes between Siam and the East India Company—Third Siamese Embassy to France—Rebellion of the Macassars and



death of Captain Udall—War between Siam and the East India Company—Trouble at Mergui—Massacre of Europeans at Mergui—King Narai's declaration of war—Second French Embassy—French troops in Siam—New Treaty with France—Anti-foreign Party—P'ra P'etraja—King Narai falls ill—Difficulty about succession—Arrest and execution of Phaulkon—His character—Execution of Princes—Death of King Narai—His character—His legislation. . . . .	189
--	-----

## CHAPTER XIV

King P'etraja—Persecution of Christians—French leave Siam—Trouble about hostages—Second persecution—Treaty with Dutch—Negotiations with English—Settlement with French—Rebellion of T'am T'ien—Claim of East India Company—End of war between Siam and East India Company—Rebellions—Siege of Nak'on Srit'ammarat—Cambodia—Further negotiations with French—Rebellion of Bun K'wang—Trouble in Luang P'rabang—Illness of King P'etraja—Murder of Prince Chao K'wan—P'ra P'ijai declared heir—Death of King P'etraja—His character—P'ra P'ijai resigns crown—King P'rachao Sūa—His occupations—The King and the steersman—The King's low tastes and brutality—Famine—Death of King P'rachao Sūa—King T'ai Sra—Invasion of Cambodia—Defeat of southern army—Successes of northern army—Cambodia submits—Disputes about succession—Death of King T'ai Sra—His character—Events in Chiangmai . . . . .	216
--	-----