

Dusida Photongkanong 2009: The Development Policy of Thai Government toward the Three Southernmost Provinces, A.D.1938-1986. Master of Arts (History), Major Field: History, Department of History. Thesis Advisor: Professor Phuwadol Songprasert, Ph.D. 265 pages.

This thesis presents the development policy of the Thai government in the three Southernmost provinces from 1938 to 1986. It analyzes various aspects of the government's development policy and reflects comprehensively on the impact that programs had on the society and institutions of these three provinces during that time period.

The author has used a historical analysis approach utilizing primary sources such as government records and secondary sources such as books and academic thesis.

In an attempt to improve the stability of the political environments pertaining to the predominately Muslim provinces in southern Thailand and increase the unity of the country between predominately Muslim south and the predominately non-Muslim remainder of the country, the Government instituted a concerted economic and social development policy aimed at bringing about stability and unity. However, since these policies were primarily being imposed top-down by the Buddhist government they did not necessarily have the desired results they were viewed as a tool of the state and only indirectly took the prevailing social and cultural unique nesses of region into consideration. This thesis will review and analyze these particular attempts at socio-economic development and unification of the southernmost provinces through comprehensive government policy and draw conclusions as to the successes and failures of these policies.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

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