

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : The Governmental Structure during Thonburi Period,
A.D. 1767-1782

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This research attempted to study the government structure during Thonburi period and the administration role of King Taksin.

The government structure was found to be divided into two parts : the central administration, which included the military aspect, and the regional administration. In central administration, the king assumed supreme role as both the leader and top administrator. King Taksin controlled and supervised the administration through *Samuha Kalahom*, or the top defense minister, and through *Samuha Naiyok*, or top civilian minister. Besides, King Taksin was also assisted by five major administrative agencies, namely, *Wangnha*, *Luk Kun na Sanluang*, *Luk Kun na Sala*, 6 ministers, and one autonomous departments.

As for the regional administration, regional towns were divided into three categories : *Muang Ek*, *Muang Tho* and *Muang Tri*. The towns, which became colonized by the capital, were called "*Muang Jatava*."

King Taksin was praised for his role in liberating the kingdom from Burma. He spent only 7 months to gain independence and established Krung Thonburi as the new capital of the kingdom. He also began diplomatic tie with China, which later on resulted into the booming of trade between the two kingdoms. King Taksin also gave great emphasis to revitalizing the role of Buddhism, which enhanced his image as *Dhamma Raja*, or the Righteous King.