

## ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : The Origin of the State Railways of Siam and the Expansion  
Of State Authority

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Major : Political Science

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Advisor Committee :

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The objective of this research was to find out whether the construction of railway in Thailand by King Rama V was related to the expansion of state authority of Siam. Contrary to the conventional wisdom that the origin of railway was for the purpose of regular transportation, this research projected that it was mainly for the purpose of state expansion. Although the commercial and transportation benefits were essential in the later days, it was a by-product at the time of the origin of state railway.

1. During the reign of King Rama V, the construction of state railway was the attempt to cope with the imperialist expansion, which threatened the integrity of Siamese state. King Rama V dispatched his representatives to rule in provincial areas and to achieve this purpose, the network of transportation was necessary.

2. The construction of state railway by King Rama V led to the consequence of penetration of state authority in remote area and thus brought about the prospect of traveling, trade, and economic development.