

WIGUN PHONGPANITANON : SOCIO-CULTURAL CHANGE IN "BANGKOK" DURING THE EARLY RATTANAKOSIN PERIOD, 1782-1868. THESIS ADVISOR : CHALONG SOONTRAVANICH, 220 pp.

During the first phase of Bangkok's rise to prominence, the problem of manpower shortage was a crucial factor in the revival of the Thai state. The government encouraged as well as organized people to settle in certain areas of Bangkok. These settlers, forced and voluntary, came from various provinces and states, and from different culture and environments.

This dissertation studies changes within Bangkok society during the period 1782-1868, concentrating on the state's attempts to control a culturally diverse community, in order to build up security, and to revive as well as expand the economic, especially foreign trade, which played a vital role during the early Rattanakosin period.

The result of the research show that the inhabitants of Bangkok during this period were all strangers to each other. The government laid down a policy of controlling society through the corvee system as well as through economic ties which had existed since the Ayutthaya period. The number of settlers settlements within the city, led to its rapid expansion, and went hand in hand with the trade and economic expansion of that era. The state tried to inculcate certain ideas and principles in controlling the behaviour of people in society. These developments caused by internal social factors, and the effects of different foreign cultures on the community, resulted in the unfolding of, and changes in, Bangkok's unified character.