

KOMCUM DEWONGSA : THE ROLE OF AYUTTHAYA'S MARKET PLACES IN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRADE (1630-1767). THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. SRISAKARA VALLIBHOTAMA, DHIRAVAT NA POMBEJRA, PH.D. 210 PP.

This thesis studies the role of markets in the city of Ayutthaya, both in domestic and external trade. Markets were vital in affirming Ayutthaya's status as an important centre of international trade in Asia.

During the mid-Ayutthaya period (1629-1688), many foreign traders came to Ayutthaya, especially European, Chinese, and "Moor" traders. This phenomenon led to the flourishing of trade in forest produce, and of entrepot trade. The crown's trading organization increased its role in the control and implementation of royal trade both inside and outside the kingdom.

During the late Ayutthaya period (1688-1767), trade in the markets of Ayutthaya switched its emphasis from contact with European traders to increased dealings with Chinese merchants. At the same time some of the city's markets developed into manufacturing areas, producing goods answering to the needs of local consumers. The royal monopoly system also became less stringent during this last stage of Ayutthaya's history.