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TEERANUN CHUANGPICHIT : CHAO SEN RITE (ASHURA) : ETHNIC IDENTITY  
AND ETHNICITY OF SHI'ITE MUSLIM OF THAILAND. THESIS ADVISOR: PROF. PRANEE  
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This thesis is a study of the historical development of the Shi'ite Muslim groups in Thailand who were previously referred to in historical documents and known by the majority of the Thai people as "Khaek Ted" or "Khaek Chao Sen". Nowadays, they are merely recognized as the Thai people who belong to the Islamic Shi'ite sect. In fact, these "Khaek Chao Sen" ethnic groups have a long history of their own and unique social relations with other groups in the Thai society. This study focused on the ethnic Identity and ethnicity of the Muslim's Shi'ite sect in Bangkok through the "Chao Sen Rite" from historical, social and cultural perspectives.

The study found that "Chao Sen Rite" reflects the common ethnic identity of an Islamic Shi'ite group who shares mutual ethnic awareness based on common social and kinship relationship as well as common religious faith through their identity of "Khaek Chao Sen".

Through their relationship with other people in the Thai society the "Chao Sen" group has become "Marginalized", both by other Muslim groups of similar religious background and by the Thai group of different cultural background. They have become the "minority Muslim". "Chao Sen Rite" has significant roles in providing the Shi'ite Muslim in Thailand with a unique social space to express their common identity and to maintain their ethnicity among the changes that have taken place in the Thai society from the past to present time.

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