

PONGSETHIDA KASEMSIN : KING MONGKUT AND HIS JUSTIFICATION OF  
THE THRONE. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSISTANT PROFESSOR BUSAKORN KARN-  
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This thesis is a study of King Mongkut's own justification of the throne. His attempt on the issue emerged amidst his political experience throughout the years from the end of the reign of King Rama II. Among the findings of this study is that the means used by King Mongkut was to present an adaptation of traditional Thai definition of kingship. The adaptation was based on King Mongkut's political and intellectual experience as well as contemporary political, social and economic situations. Accordingly, his justification of the throne relied upon the theory of social contract and the ideal king who was not only able but also enlightened and charismatic.

In King Mongkut's version of social contract, the king is but a human being whose *raison d'être* was to maintain social order. On the other hand the definition of the ideal king was adapted so as to lead the nation through the threat of western imperialism.

In effect his reasoning of the two themes reflected traces of western influence together with traditionalism, the coexistence of which was characteristic of King Mongkut.