

Thesis Title Thesaphiban System:its Effects upon the Economic
 Conditions of Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat,
 A.D. 1896-1933

Name Pitsamai Nuntaseang

Concentration History of Southeast Asia

Department History

Academic Year 1993

ABSTRACT

This thesis is a study of economic changes in Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat under the Thesaphiban during A.D. 1896-1933. During this period, produces of Southeast Asia, especially tin and rubber were needed in foreign markets. This results in the expansion of production in Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat. Moreover, the development of tin and rubber productions outside Thailand also helped generating the expansion of rice production because rice were also in demand in the neighbouring countries, for example, the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States. Economics changes in Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat resulted, therefore, from outside factors. At the same time, the setting up of Thesaphiban system enabled the central Government to gain political control, to control revenue collection from local areas,

and to lay down future policies. Political control resulted in the rising of new group of entrepreneur, while Government's policies which concentrated on improving transportation system made Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat more ready for future expansion of production and trade. Political and economic factors were therefore related, both had an effect on changing economic conditions of Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat.

The content of this thesis is divided into 6 chapters:

The introduction gives the background of the study and points out the main problems which the author is interested. There are the way in which the economy of this area had changed, and the effects of political reform on economic conditions.

Chapter 2 looks at economic and political conditions of three provinces in the eastern coast of South Thailand, (Nakhon Si Thammarat, Songkla and Phattalung) before A.D. 1896. It can be established that production and trade in this area began to expand markedly during King Rama V's reign. During the same period, the central Government started to gain political and revenue controls in the provinces. This chapter explains factors which influenced Government's decision to undertake a political reform in the three provinces.

Chapter 3 studies the establishment of Monthon Thesaphiban and its effects on local economic structures. This is by considering two main objectives of the Thesaphiban system, that is, the need to cut down political influence of existing local elite and the need to control revenue. Since local elite

had both political and economic roles, the establishment of Thesaphiban system resulted in replacing the local elite with new groups of entrepreneur, especially the Chinese. At the same time, the control of revenue and administration in the provinces enabled the central Government to lay down new policies.

Chapter 4 studies in detail policies which the central Government used to develop Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat. It is founded that the central Government had no policy which was directly intended for developing the economy, but its role in developing transportation system, especially the building of southern railway in A.D.1918, helped the development of export production, both in the expansion of production and in the expansion of trading centers.

Chapter 5 studies the overall picture of economic changes which occurred during A.D. 1898 - 1933, by looking at the amount of trade, patterns of production and trade of important export commodities, such as rice, tin, rubber, and livestock.

The last chapter is a conclusion which summarises the overall content of this thesis.