



Thai Noblemen and Modern Bureaucrats in the late 19th century and early 20th century



Thai noblemen or ขุนนาง (khunnang) were part of a hierarchical social system in Thailand since the fourteenth until the late nineteenth centuries. In contrast to aristocrats in feudal Europe, Thai noblemen did not privately own land and their noble titles under the Sakdina system could not be inherited by their offspring.

King Chulalongkorn (1868-1910) was one of the greatest kings of Thailand who reformed the old system of central and regional administration, modernized the country and



thus saved it from European colonization. He initiated a modern bureaucracy in 1892. Traditional noblemen had to adapt to work in the modern bureaucrats under the rules of each ministry organized along functional lines and earned regular salaries. Moreover, he established professional institutions such as a law school, a cadet school and a civil servant school producing modern bureaucrats for each respective ministry. This lecture focuses on the transitional period in the formation of modern bureaucrats in Thailand.

Online-Lecture via Zoom & in English

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