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Chalie Khachen & Copilot

4 Capitals of Siam

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By: Charlie Khachen

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4/406 Moo 1, T. Thabchang, A. Soidao, Chantaburi Province 12280

Email: Chalie.khachen@gmail.com

Tel: 0835445592

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Synopsis

History is important to all nations. It will highlight the country's history from the past to the present. Moreover, it is also a guideline for the future development. The e-book "4 Capitals of Siam" is concise summary of important historical events happening in Thailand. Starting from the era; Sukhothai, Ayudhaya, Dhon Buri and and Rattanakosin.

The Sukhothai Kingdom had 9 kings, capital city for 198 years, the Ayuddhaya had 33 kings, 417 years, Dhon Buri had only 1 king, 15 years and Rattakosin 10 kings, 243 years. The Kingdom of Siam or Thailand is now almost 1,000 years.

Each kingdom specified the number of monarchs and high-ranking officials, along with details of their royal activities. Furthermore, following the political change of B.E. 2475, the names of prime ministers and political leaders were also recorded.

Some periods of Thai history was recorded under suspicious circumstance, it's difficult to find the truth from anywhere. Even though the information presented by historians in digital format, there are still many things that are inaccurate, different in content and time. Now is probably the time to reform the nation's history to meet international standards. This is to avoid confusion among the public and educational institutions at all levels.

Best regards,

Charlie Khachen

January 9, 2024

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EP. 01: The Ancient Home of the Thais

Many historians, both Thai and foreign—such as Luang Wichit Wathakan, Phraya Damrong Rajanubhab, Phraya Anuman Rajadhon, the English scholar Seian Wilh, and the French scholar George Cœdès—have hypothesized that the small Thai ethnic group was descended from the Mongolian race around 2,000 years before the Buddhist era. Yet, no one could conclusively pinpoint the Thais' original dwelling place. Some believed it to be in Central Asia near Mongolia. Many others were convinced it lay in the northern reaches of China, close to Tibet, Qinghai, and Sichuan. Still another faction conjectured a home in Southeast Asia, within the regions of Guangdong and Guangxi, from which they later migrated into the principalities of Sipsong Panna and Sipsong Chu Tai. The divergence of opinion among historians, lasting for centuries, means that no single theory has ever been deemed wholly credible.

Nevertheless, several historians have analyzed the evidence and concluded that the Thais are indeed descended from the Mongolian race, with their original homeland in the north of Tibet. This vast expanse was a melting pot for more than ten minority ethnic groups, including the Chinese, Karen, Mon, Burman, Lao, and Khmer. These nations had settled, scattered across the land, for a great many years. Throughout that era, they were often embroiled in struggles to seize territories and essential resources. Among these, the groups wielding the greatest power were the Chinese, Mon, Burman, and Khom (Khmer). It is relatively certain, then, that the ancestral Thai ethnic group traces its lineage back to the Mongolian race 4,000 years ago.



In the decades that followed, these various ethnic groups solidified their settlements, each overseen by its own chieftain. The more powerful groups, notably the Mon, Burman, and Khmer, constantly encroached upon and subjugated the weaker ones, such as the Lao, Karen, Hmong, and Akha. These weaker nations were forced to retreat southward into Southern China, establishing their villages in the mountains and along the major rivers. The Burman and Thai groups subsequently relocated into the "Lanna" region. Meanwhile, the minority Lao people gradually moved southeastward to the left bank of the Mekong River, in the area called "Lan Xang" and Luang Prabang. All the while, the Khmer group, which maintained dominance over the others, relentlessly pursued and harassed the other communities.

Thais migrated westward, following the upper reaches of the Huang He (Yellow) and Yangtze Rivers, settling in the Golden Triangle, the border region between what are now Thailand and Laos. In the ensuing years, the Khmer (Khom) and other increasingly strong tribes also relocated to the Golden Triangle. They established secure settlements and founded several "Kingdoms".



The northern kingdoms included the Khmer Kingdom, the Lanna-Chiang Mai Kingdom, the Yonok-Chiang Saen Kingdom, and the Hariphunchai Kingdom. Later, the Thai groups moved their settlements to the middle reaches of the Yom River, a vast area covering Phrae and Sukhothai. There, they took control of the former Khom territory of "Salok Bat" and established the "Sukhothai" Kingdom. That period was marked by an intense competition for power among the northern kingdoms. However, the various kingdoms in the south, such as Ayothaya, Suphan Buri, and Lopburi, remained relatively obscure at the time.

- The King and the Rulers of the State.

The pursuit of power and the expansion of territory, both in the north and the south, continued without respite. The chiefs or rulers of the smaller cities called themselves "Chao". At that time, Sukhothai was considered a kingdom more powerful than all the other northern states. The title for the ruler was "Pho Khun" (Father Ruler), which was the equivalent of a "King" (Phra Chao Phaen Din). It was in this