

Siam and the League of Nations : modernization, sovereignty, and multilateral diplomacy, 1920-1940

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Author: Hell, Stefan Matthias

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Abstract: This study analyses the relations between Siam and the League of Nations from 1920 to 1940. It identifies Siam's policy towards the League as a cornerstone of Siam's foreign policy and an important element of Siam's domestic modernization during the sixth, seventh and eighth reigns of the Chakri dynasty. In doing so, the study aims at adding a key multilateral dimension to the existing historical analysis of Thai foreign relations during the first half of the twentieth century. It argues that Siam's League membership played an important role in modernizing the country, reaffirming elite rule and regaining full sovereignty. This study concentrates on the inter-war years and traces Siam's League membership in the most significant areas of interaction among the wide range of multilateral policy fields. It draws on extensive primary sources which have so far not been studied; the bulk of these files are located at the Thai National Archives in Bangkok and at the League of Nations Archives at the United Nations European Headquarters in Geneva.

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Diplomacy is the method by which nation-states, through authorized agents, maintain mutual relations, communicate with each other, and carry out political, economic, and legal transactions. Although the roots of diplomacy reach back to the beginning of organized human society, the Peace of Westphalia of 1648 is generally believed to be the origin of diplomacy as an institution, since it marked the beginning of the European nation-state system (which initially consisted of twelve well-defined sovereign states) and codified the rules of conduct among sovereign and "equal" states. The W PROSPECT OF MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY Sovereignty, The state and Multilateral diplomacy • Sovereignty of states is the core principle of international law and the cornerstone... For examples, The United Nations Charter binds member states to settle their international disputes by peaceful mean and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use force The founding of UN marked a major turning point in modern international relations. It gave definition and a new direction to the international political system, which had just emerged from a devastating world. Siam and the League of Nations: Modernization, Sovereignty and Multilateral Diplomacy, 1920-1940 Documents. Modernization, Sovereignty and Multilateral Diplomacy, 1920-1940 Porphant Ouyyanont aa School of Economics, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University ,Nonthaburi , Thailand Published online: 13 Apr 2012. To cite this article: Porphant Ouyyanont (2012) Siam and the League of Nations: Modernization, Sovereignty and Multilateral Diplomacy, 1920-1940, Journal of Contemporary Asia, 42:2, 333-335, DOI: 10.1080/00472336.2012.668356 To link to this article: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00472336.2012.668356> Japan then withdrew from the

