

Thesis Title Roles of the Slave in History of Lan Xang Kingdom During the 15-17th

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ABSTRACT

This thesis aims to study the roles of “Khoy” (Slave) in Lan Xang kingdom during the 15-17th centuries which was a golden era of Lan Xang.

The study reveals that during the 15-17th centuries, the roles of Khoy (slave) were changed from the kingdom formation era (before the 15th century) by the changing political, social and especially the growth of economic conditions in Southeast Asia. Lan Xang decided to join the growing trade, as the kingdom has wild products which were demanding commodity of external market. Thus, the kingdom’s economy expanded. This affected the roles of Khoy in trade system participation. Khoy became important labor and the demand for Khoy rose. As Chao Khoy, most of them are ruling class, tried to collect labor and power by participating in trading and in the same time the informal patronage system rose, wealth did not concentrate in the hand of ruling class anymore. Therefore, participating in trade permitted a part of Phrai to advance and possesses Khoy. This led to the increase in number of Khoy and their changing roles.

The roles of Khoy shift from force labor to quasi-independent labor; Khoy did not only restrict to work in Chao Khoy household or farm field anymore. Khoy roles were modified to meet the needs of the people. It was found that Khoy could be hired from Chao Khoy to do activities in agricultural and trading sectors such as harvesting, raising animals and employing in intercity trade. These changes were reflected in the laws. Thus, during that time, Khoy was not

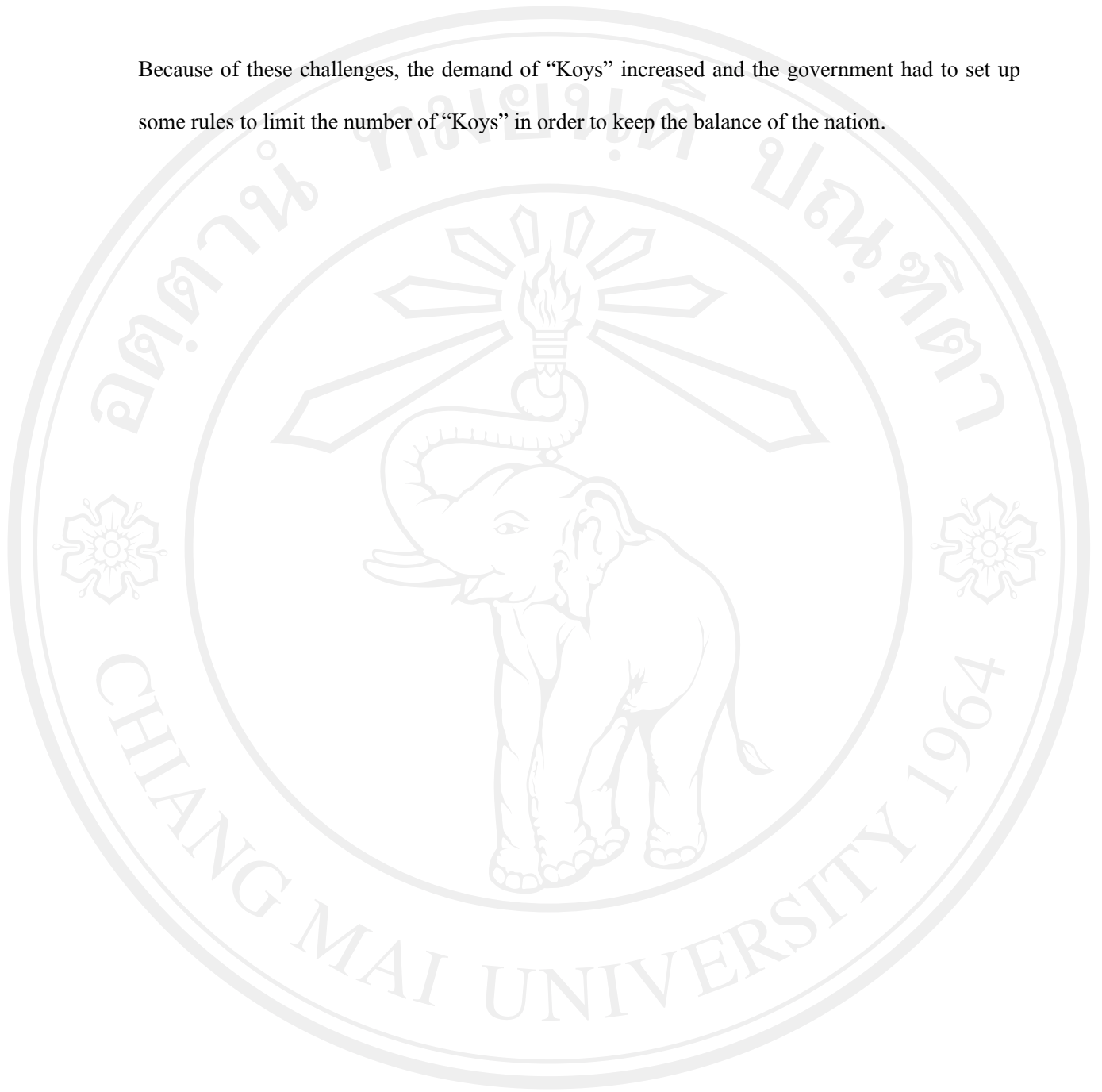
The purpose of this thesis is to study the roles of “Koy”, slavery from Lan Xang Era in B.E.21-23, which was the Golden Era of Siam.

The findings indicated that during B.E.21-23 the roles of “Koy”, slavery, had been changed tremendously due to the transformation of politics, society, and the economic growth of South East Asia compared to those during the time when Lan Xang era was being established (before B.E.21). Lan Xang had plentiful natural resources, especially the forest; therefore, it was highly regarded by overseas market and eventually stepped into the international market. The economy in Lan Xang, as a result, bloomed and strongly affected “Koy’s” life. “Koy” became a part of the labor market. It was a significant factor to drive the economy of its country and greatly was needed by most firms. The fact that “Koy” was gaining more authority to negotiate and participate more in business changed the patronage system and led to the spread of wealth to other social classes rather than just the high class. Many “Koys” started to do better and have a better financial status. These changes not only raised the number of “Koys”, but also created more roles and gave significance to “Koy”.

Firstly, the role of Koy changed from servant service to free service. A slave could choose to work outside of his or her master’s home or on a farm if he or she wanted to. Moreover, anyone who requested a slave worker could do so by contacting the slave’s current master. In agriculture field, a “Koy’s” job would be to harvest and raise animals. Besides that, a “Koy” worked in a market place, and even in service industries. At times, a “Koy” would be asked to go to a different town to sell goods. There were some changes in law as well. The idea of “Koy” was no longer to represent the power of the master or the convenience a “Koy” could bring to the master’s household. It then became the investment that could bring a large number of incomes.

A “Koy” brought some economical development, political balance, and linked the Monarchy with religion. A “Koy” was also an important factor that helped expand the town.

Because of these challenges, the demand of “Koys” increased and the government had to set up some rules to limit the number of “Koys” in order to keep the balance of the nation.



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