

## ABSTRACT

### **Somdet Chao Phya Promaha Srisuriyawongsa: The Administrative Leadership**

Leadership may be simply defined as all the means by which individuals are motivated to achieve group goals. Demands on administrative leadership have greatly increased in the past few decades because of specialization, extension, and complexity of institutions. However, leadership has been the first requirement in successful administration. Leadership has been dealt with in this thesis from the standpoint of the directive function and the administrative process which are the steps and tactics in getting job done. The author realizes that there is no one type of leader that is best suited to positions of leadership, he may be autocratic, democratic, or laissez-fair. But there are certain qualities which are now recognized as basic; the winning of group acceptance of his role and initiation, the delegation of authority, the fair decision making, and the maintenance of effective communication. Thus, democratic leadership is a model for this study.

This thesis attempts to indicate and analyze the administrative leadership of Somdet Chao Phya Promaha Srisuriyawongsa who had been the chief of Thai government, a prime minister and a regent, for two reigns. His role as a statesman is remarkable when he managed the 'open door policy' in the reign of Rama IV and when he managed the states affairs during the first years of the reign of Rama V including the thrilling interregnum. Furthermore, his role in concern of the modernization of Thai society, a take-off from primary to transitional, is worth studying. His characters, talents, and experiences also proved to be leading factors of his achievement.

The study covers his biography, his character, and his works as a prime minister and a regent. The main point is the analysis of his role as an administrator, focused on the sources and the executions of power and the qualifications of leader which will determine the type of leadership.

By documentary research, mostly from primary sources, the author tries to prove four hypotheses. First, Somdet Chao Phaya Promaha Srisuriyawongsa had high achievement as a civil servant and a statesman because of higher administrative leadership than his contemporary fellows. Secondly, he took leading part in the modernization of Thai society. Thirdly, his leadership is autocratic. Lastly, the study of his administrative leadership reveals the trends of Thai administrative leadership which are major part of Thai administrative behavior influenced by social, economic, and political environments.

Since leadership has been one main interest in studying human behavior, this thesis will be useful to the study of Thai administrative behavior as well as the study of Thai modernization.

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