

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE DAMRONG RAJANUBHAB
AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**

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The latter part of the nineteenth century marked a significant change in the administration of Thailand. The principle reason for this administrative revolution was the chaotic state of the country, which gave rise to international and internal problems affecting the sovereignty and the progress of the country. Pressure for change came to a head when King Rama V, no longer willing to standstill for inefficiency in the affairs of state, took steps to reorganize the government.

The task of improving governmental administration was not an easy one, but King Chulalongkorn, with the assistance of Prince Damrong, succeeded in modernizing the country. Prince Damrong was formally the first Minister of Interior, but in fact, informally he also played an important role as adviser to King Rama V.

Prince Damrong did much to improve the country and his beneficent work was a turning point for Thailand. This study provides a description of Prince Damrong, with special emphasis on sociological and psychological factors.

An attempt has been made to describe the external and internal problems of the country which were the origins of the administrative reorganization, the formation of state and interior policies, and the administration of Prince Damrong in the Interior Ministry. It focuses upon the planning, organizing and management of new and westernized central and local administration.

It also examines the behavior and leadership of Prince Damrong in administering the policies of three successive Kings and the hardships involved in such undertakings. It points out outstanding administrative features which were value-preserving to the progress of Thailand and derived from the energy and ability of Prince Damrong. The last of the study gives an account of his resignation.

จากวิทยานิพนธ์เรื่อง : สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอกรมพระยาดำรงราชานุภาพ
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