

AYUTTHAYA AND THE WORLD DURING THE AGE OF KING NARAI

What went on before

1324

Large Buddha image built at Wat Phananchong

1351

King Ramathibodi I (Uthong) "founds" Ayutthaya kingdom
Mid-14th century-15th century Territorial expansions to the east (Cambodia)
and north (Sukhothai kingdom); contacts with China through tributary diplomacy and trade

1491 - 1529

Reign of King Ramathibodi II: first contacts with the Portuguese
(1511-1512); first treaty with a European power (with Portugal in 1516)

Mid-16th century First Roman Catholic priests arrive, and first Christian church
built in Ayutthaya (Dominican church in Portuguese settlement)

1569

First fall of Ayutthaya following series of wars against Burma (Myanmar)

1590 - 1605

Reign of King Naresuan: political and economic recovery; Spanish embassy
comes from Manila to Ayutthaya (1598)

Late 16th century-1630s direct diplomatic and trade relations with Japan

1604

Dutch United East India Company (VOC) arrives in Ayutthaya,
establishes trade agency ("factorij") in 1608

1612

English East India Company (EIC) establishes its first "factory" in Ayutthaya (1612-c.1625)

1630s

Wat Chai Watthanaram built by King Prasatthong (r.1629-1656),
King Narai's father

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King Narai

1656

Accession of King Narai after a series of court conflicts; Narai aided by various foreigners including Persians and Portuguese

1662 onwards

French missionaries of the Société des Missions Etrangères, Paris (MEP) enter Siam; King Narai grants land on which to build a church and seminary in Ayutthaya (present-day St Joseph's)

1663-1664

Dutch-Siamese crisis: VOC blockade, treaty of 1664 forbidding Siamese crown from using Chinese on his junks and giving the Dutch extra-territorial powers

1660s-1670s

Persian influences in Siamese court politics, trade and culture; employment of "Moor" cavalry; Siamese elephants and tin traded in exchange for Indian textiles; King Narai begins to favour Lopburi as a residence, builds a palace there

1673

French ecclesiastical mission bears letters from King Louis XIV and Pope Clement IX to the court of King Narai

1674

The EIC reopens the English factory in Ayutthaya

1680s

Intense diplomatic activity: contacts with Persia, Golconda, Portugal, the Vatican, France, the Dutch in Batavia, Jambi

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King Narai

early 1680s

Ascendancy of Constantine Phaulkon; closer diplomatic contacts with King Louis XIV's court; Englishmen as governor and harbour master in Mergui; disputes with the EIC leading to declaration of war on EIC in 1687

1685

French embassy in Siam (under Alexandre, chevalier de Chaumont); French Jesuits accompany the embassy, along with the military expert Claude de Forbin and the engineer De la Mare; Franco-Siamese treaty

1686

Siamese embassy in France (Okphra Wisut Sunthon "Kosa Pan" as chief envoy)

1687

French embassy in Siam led by envoys-extraordinary Simon de La Loubère and Claude Céberet du Boullay; installation of French garrison in Bangkok and renegotiation of treaty

May 1688

Seizure of power in Lopburi by Phra Phetracha, Master of the Royal Elephants; execution of Phaulkon; followed later in the year by the imprisonment of French missionaries

July 1688

Death of King Narai in Lopburi on 11 July; accession of King Phetracha, marking the beginning of Ayutthaya's last dynasty (Ban Phlu Luang Dynasty); French garrison and traders withdraw from Siam; missionaries stay on after being released

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After 1688

Early 1680s onwards

Reopening of southern Chinese ports leads to intensification of Sino-Siamese trade, especially the export of rice; a Chinese becomes phrakhlang minister in the reign of King Thai Sa (1709-1733)

1688-1765

English and other private traders still visit Siamese ports; the Dutch remain in Ayutthaya till late 1765

1733-1758

Reign of King Borommakot: Siamese monks revive higher ordination of monks in the Kingdom of Kandy (Sri Lanka)

1760

Resumption of wars against Burma; King Alaungpaya attacks Ayutthaya

1767

Armies of King Hsinbyushin capture Ayutthaya after a long siege: destruction of Ayutthaya and disintegration of the Siamese state

1767-1782

King Taksin reunites the country, reigning at Thonburi; continuation of close trading ties with China

1782

Accession of King Rama I: beginning of the Chakri Dynasty and the Bangkok (Rattanakosin) era