

Research Topic : Human Relations in Time of War : Local People of the Lower North of Thailand and the Japanese Army during the 1940's

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Abstract

The research has an aim to explain relationships between local people of the Lower North and the Japanese soldiers during the World War II. Sources are mainly used on Thai. The scope of content is limited on events happened in the areas of Phitsanulok, Sukhothai, and Nakhonsawan.

The findings are as follows :

1. Geographically and historically, local people of the Lower North are closed to the central state authorities in doing activities such as, being taxed, doing the corvée works, taking part of the suppression of internal unrests, even facing wars frequently happened at the pre-modern times.
2. The Japanese troops had come to the region, some passed by, some were assigned to station until the end of the war. They had gained local supports on supplies with the co-operations of the officials, on the contrary, they always failed whenever they enforced their demands.
3. The abundance of the region offered possibilities of sharing resources with the newcomers. It did not cause hardships to the townsmen.

4. The anti - Japanese movement happened in the region had been set up and guided by the central state authorities. It neither led to the mass resistance nor damaged effect on the Japanese troops or equipments seriously.

5. A person to person relationship between local people and the Japanese soldiers are quite interesting. The two parties had produced many tales after the war on love, mercy, and forgiveness.