

Noi's policy was supported by the powerful aristocrats in the Court of Siam who shared benefits from the southern states. As to the Siamese system, the expansion of local port-polity brought increased benefits to the central port-polity. Thus expansion of Nakhon Sii Thammarat was accepted by the Court of Siam.

Movements to prevent the expansion of Nakhon Sii Thammarat began outside Siam. The Malay Muslims revolted against the Siamese governor and the tax system. Another was the East India Company's intention to demarcate Siamese territory by treaties.

After the death of Noi in 1839, Nakhon immediately lost its political influence, and Songkhla gained acceptance in the Court of Siam. Overall, the expansion policy of Nakhon Sii Thammarat provided the Court of Siam an opportunity to acknowledge the need for an efficient system of a centralized administration.

The Ruling Policies on Syria in the Late Mamluk Period :
With Special Reference to the Financial Policy and
its Influence on the Syrian Ruling Class

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The decline in agricultural production in Egypt and Syria from the late 14th century and gradual increase of the *waqfs* (pious trusts) encroaching on the state estates, undermined the Mamluk regime founded on *iqta'* system. This led to an acute financial crisis in the 15th century. Under these circumstances, attempts were made by Mamluk sultans to maintain the regime by a new policy which was to centralize various incomes from Egypt and Syria in their own hands to issue monthly payments, other supplies to their mamluks and other armies who had suffered from nominal income from their *iqta'*s.

This new policy brought some changes in the Mamluk ruling system of Syria. In Syria, the citadels in provincial capitals came to play an important role in collecting special taxes for the Sultan

(levies on city inhabitants and the *waqfs*, confiscations from officials and the poll tax (*jizya*), etc.). The citadels had been strategic military positions used in defending the cities, where the Sultan assigned a special viceroy to each citadel. Furthermore, in this period, various financial officers were appointed in the citadel, and they began to handle finances for the sultan independently from the provincial government, took on duties of keeping the sultan's property and conveying them to Cairo. On the other hand, as the Syrian mamluks' status in the whole kingdom weakened, their role in the provincial administration gradually decreased as well. This was caused by insufficient payments to the Syrian mamluks to cover their reduced income, unlike the case of Egyptian mamluks, due to the above mentioned new state policy initially aimed at maintaining the central regime in Egypt. Meanwhile, some local ulama' families in Syria expanded their influences in politics and urban society by dominating high-official posts, and creating direct ties with the Egyptian central government. Appointment and dismissal of these local ulama's by the Sultans was one of the ruling policies to control the local regime in Syria, as well as one of the financial policies to bring their vast wealth in Syria to Egypt.