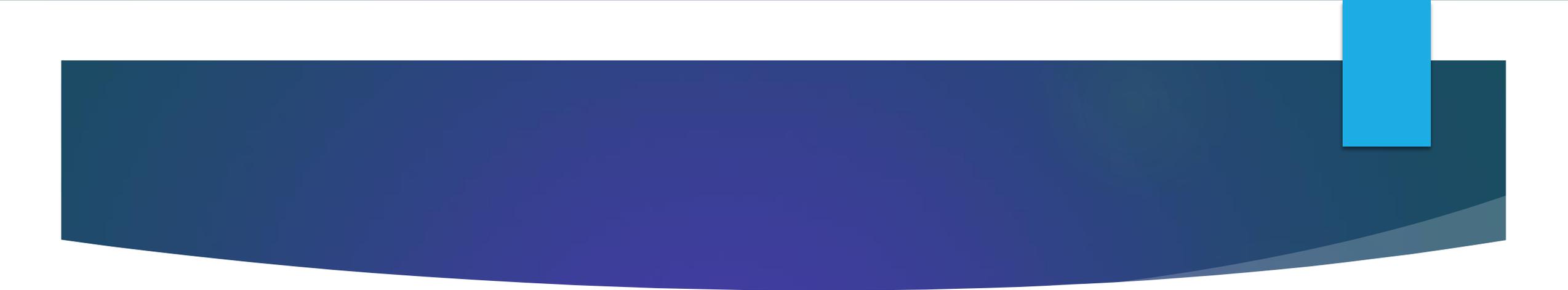




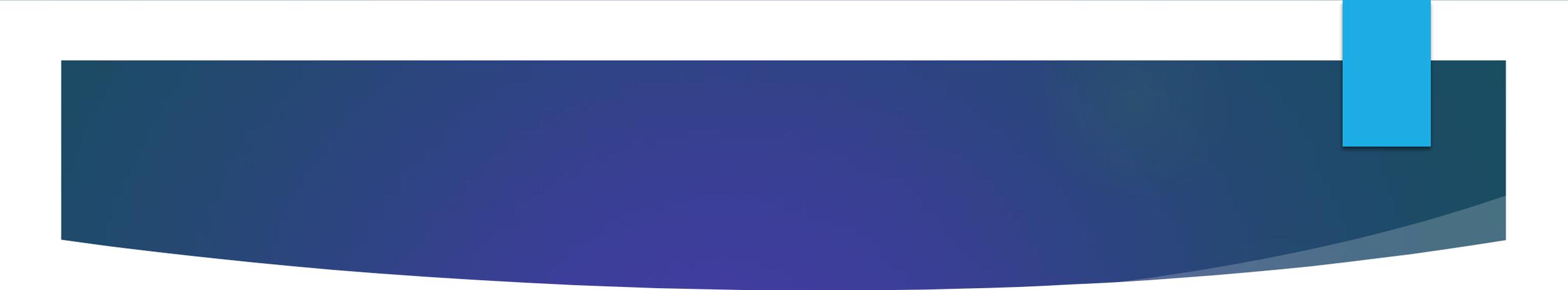
GEN0103 Thai Society and Culture

AJ PANNALIN SUCHOOKORN

CIM, SSRU



Where are Thai from?



Why we have to know our root?



Why do we have to know our root?

Why is so important to know our root?

Why is so important to know our root?

Drake		
Clown		
David Deng		
Artorias		
Michael		
John		
David		
Bella		
Charles		
Arvin		

Student Participation

Calvin		
Vicky		
James		
Ciaran		
Raynor		
Andy		
Elaina		
Layonyu		
Nairi		
Ray		

Student Participation

George		
Amor		
Zac		
Noah		
Jakelove		
Negan		
Leo		
27		

Where are Thai from?

The Tai

Genetically, Thai people descend from the Tai ethnolinguistic group (speakers of a common Tai language who are also found in other Southeast Asian countries and in China).

Thought to originate from Northern Mountains (Himalayas)
It's assumed that the group migrated into modern-day Thailand and Laos, where its people settled and used their extensive agricultural intel to cultivate rice.

Where are Thai from? Origins of Thai

The Tai

These first communities bordered river systems at the country's tip, but over the years the ethnic group migrated to Thailand's central plains, supplanting the existing Austroasiatic population.

As the Tai group spread, so did their language, becoming the mother-tongue of both Thailand and Laos.

As the group settled in different regions of the country and started communities, the ethnic subgroups of modern-day Thailand were created.

Where are Thai from? Origins of Thai

Today, 75 percent of Thailand's population derives from the ethnic groups that descended from the Tai people, including the Central Thai (Siamese), the Southern Thai (Thai Pak Tai), the Khorat Thai, the Isan, the Yuan, the Assimilated Sino-Thai (Thai with Chinese heritage), and the Assimilated Khmer-Thai (of Cambodian origin).

Most of the groups populate central and southern Thailand, due to their original settlement near the Chao Phraya River, which winds its way through modern-day Bangkok.

Where are Thai from? Origins of Thai

The Lao-Isan call Northern/Northeastern Thailand home (as discussed earlier).

In general, the following subgroups populate different regions and speak distinct dialects:

The Shan live in Mae Hong Son,
the Thai Lus in Chiang Rai,
the Thai Khorat in Khorat,
the Yaw in Nakhon Phanom,
the Lao Song in Phetburi,
the Lanna in Northern Thailand,
the Isan people in northeastern Thailand,
and the Thai Oak Tai in southern Thailand.

Origins of Thai

Origin Theories

There are no less than six theories about the ethnic origin of the Kingdom's peoples.

Origins of Thai

Theory 1: The Mongolian Origins Theory

The Mongolians origin theory was initiated by American missionary W.C. Dodd

He believed that the Tai ethnolinguistic group had descended from the Mung people of the Altai Mountains, who had left their lofty dwellings and migrated to China's western front.

Origins of Thai

Theory 2: The Central China Origins Theory

This theory got its start with linguist Terrien de La Couperie, a Frenchman who had been tasked with the study of ancient Chinese records.

After studying the complex linguistic patterns of both China and Thai, La Couperie concluded that the Tai people originated in central China, pointing to the uncanny similarities in language between the Mung people (who represented an ethnic minority in their home province of Szechuan) and the Tai people who later populated Southeast Asia.

Origins of Thai

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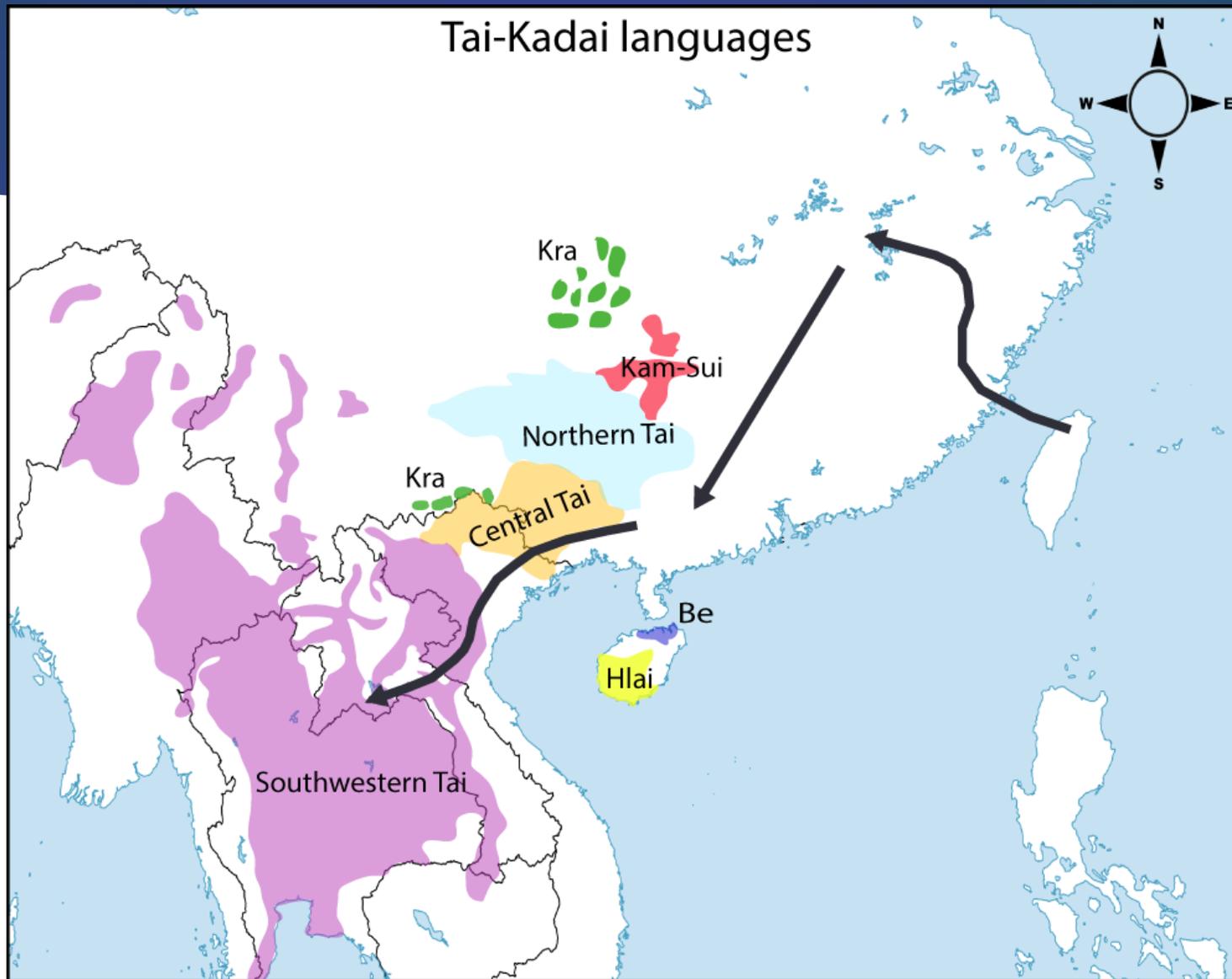
Origins of Thai

Theory 3: The South China Origins Theory

In 1886, an English explorer named A.R. Colquhoun was certain he'd determined the origin of the Tai peoples, proposing the South China Origins Theory.

After exploring Southeast Asia from Burma to India, he proposed that a similar lifestyle and language between the regions made the connection between the two groups likely, if not certain.

Tai-Kadai languages



Origins of Thai

Theory 4: The Indochina-Thailand Origins Theory

The Indochina/Thailand Origins Theory was initially proposed by American linguist and anthropologist, Paul King Benedict.

He believed that the commonalities between the Tai language and the Kadai language (characteristic of southern China and having similarities to Indonesian dialects) suggest that Tai, Java-Malay, and Tibetan-Burmese groups were all linked under a cultural umbrella called 'Austronesian.'

Origins of Thai

Theory 5: The Skulls Theory

Researcher H.G. Quaritch Wales attempted to prove that the Tai people had originated in Thailand itself by using skulls he found and studied in Kanchanaburi Province, which dated back to 50 A.D.

He compared them to modern-day Thai skulls and concluded that the two were extremely similar, theorizing that the Tai people had occupied Thailand for the past two millennia.

Origins of Thai

Theory 6: The Malay-Indonesian Origins Theory

The last theory, the Malay-Indonesian Origins Theory, supposes that the Tai group shares a close relation to the populations of Java.

A researcher named Somsak Punta-Sombun determined this after exploring the interwoven relationship of genetics and blood type.

He found that ethnic Thai and Chinese people have dissimilar genetics and that there was a much closer relationship between Thai and Javanese civilizations. He even presumed that the Tai group may have lived in Java.

Ref:

- ▶ <https://www.thethailandlife.com/origin-thai-people>
- ▶ <https://prachatai.com/english/node/244>
- ▶ <https://prachatai.com/english/node/3318>