



CHAPTER 4

GEN0101 Royal Court of
Suan Sunandha

Pannalin Suchookorn

SUAN SUNANDHA VS TRANSFORMATION

In Thai long history, we first contacted with Western countries since Ayutthaya, the former capital of Thailand.

The evidences showed that in Ayutthaya period, there were some traders and soldiers from Portugal who first came to have trading business and worked in Thai army

- western know-how has been brought by them accordingly



SUAN SUNANDHA VS TRANSFORMATION

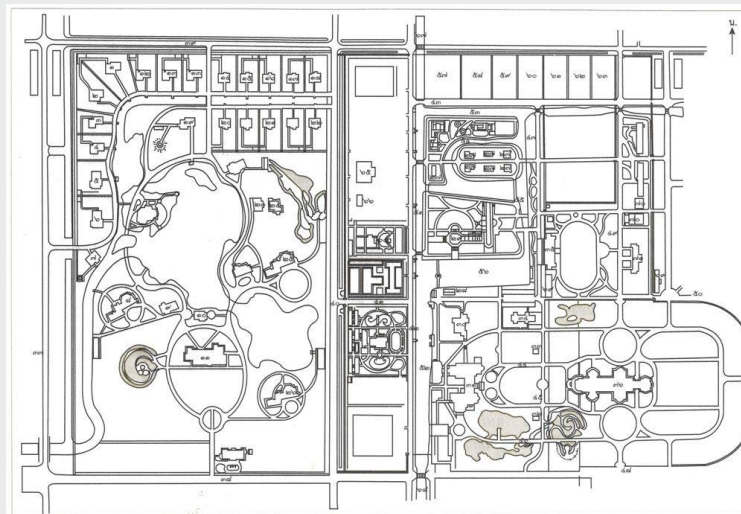
All those western cultures had deep impact to Thai society in many aspects. It turned to be parts of Thai cultures, meanwhile, it has been adapted to the traditional and original way of Thai folk ways life.



SUAN SUNANDHA VS TRANSFORMATION

The idea of building up Suan Sunandha was finally decided after 2nd visit of King Rama V to Europe, when he has seen the architecture of palaces in Europe having garden or a big area for walking around inside.

After coming back from Europe that time, Suan Sunandha blue print has been initiated.



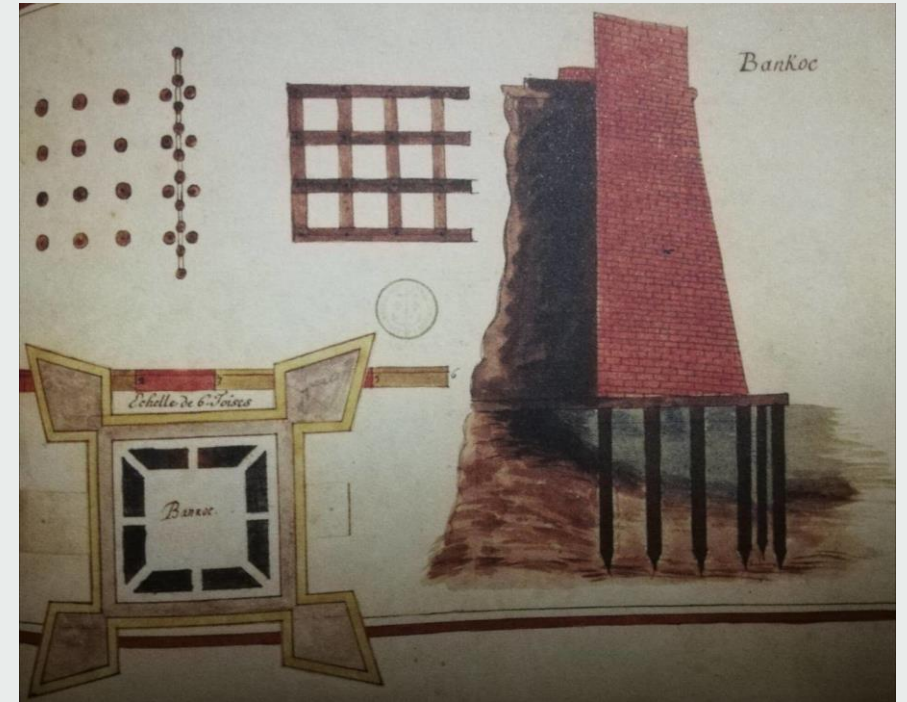
SUAN SUNANDHA VS TRANSFORMATION

First western cultures has been adopted in Thai society were military and architecture which came in to Thailand since Ayutthaya.

MILITARY

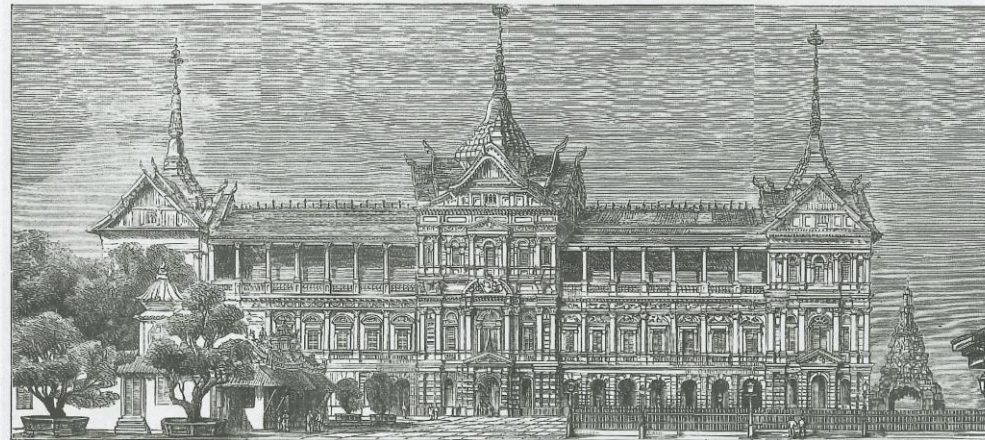
Started from Ayutthaya period;

- bought guns for war fighting from western countries
- built up defendant towers which has been designed by French Engineer
- hired Englishmen for being consultant regarding arm force duty



SUAN SUNANDHA VS TRANSFORMATION

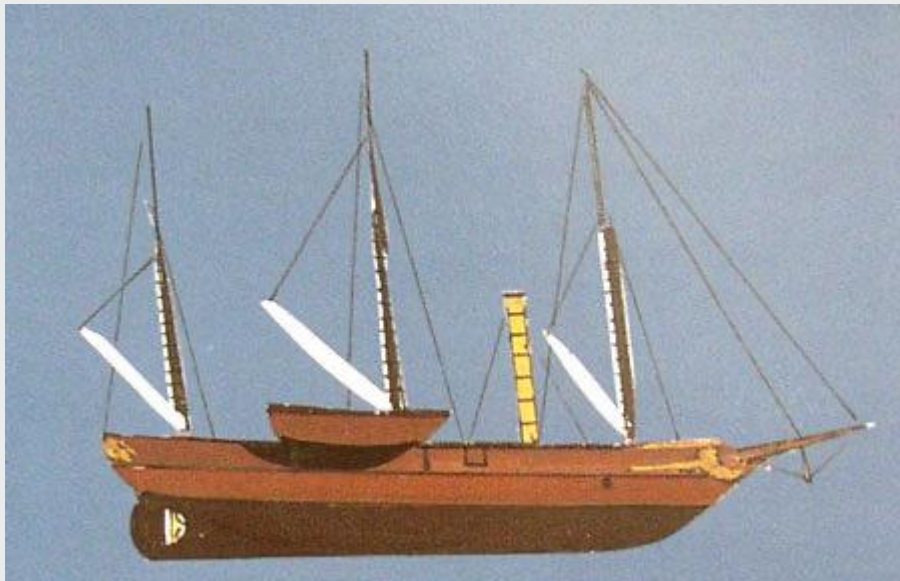
In Chakri Dynasty (we have called in Rattanakosin period) the western know-how started from King Rama III.



THE ROYAL PALACE AT BANGKOK
SKETCHES IN SIAM

KING RAMA III

- During King Rama III period, some royal members and high position staff of the royal family studied English and other subjects from textbooks, they were able to build ship with gun.



เรือสยามอรุสมพล

ROYAL SIAMESE SEAT

ประเภท	เรือยอร์ท (ตัวเรือไม้)
ขนาด	ความยาว ๗๕ ฟุต ความกว้าง ๒๐ ฟุต
เครื่องจักร	เครื่องจักรข้าง กำลัง ๑๕ แรงม้า
ต่อที่	อยู่ตรงข้ามท่าราชวรดิฐ
ขึ้นระวางประจำการ	พุทธศักราช ๒๓๔๘

KING RAMA III — MODERN MEDICAL TREATMENT

- Missionary came to convince people to believe in god and they also brought modern sciences

KING RAMA IV - EDUCATION

- During King Rama IV, the royal family has hired foreign teachers for teaching English language and western knowledge.

In period of King Rama IV, the royal family has been taught many subjects with well structured and openly.



KING RAMA IV — ASTRONOMY STUDY

- He had strong and deep knowledge about astronomy so he could predict sun eclipse

KING RAMA IV - PRINTING TECHNOLOGY

Bangkok Recorder, is the newspaper every two week issue had been established.

It was built when King Rama IV ordained as a monk in Baworniwes Temple. He found the printing was important for spread out the Buddhism verdict.

Printing made Thai life increased their knowledge



KING RAMA V - MILITARY

- first military academic institute establishment



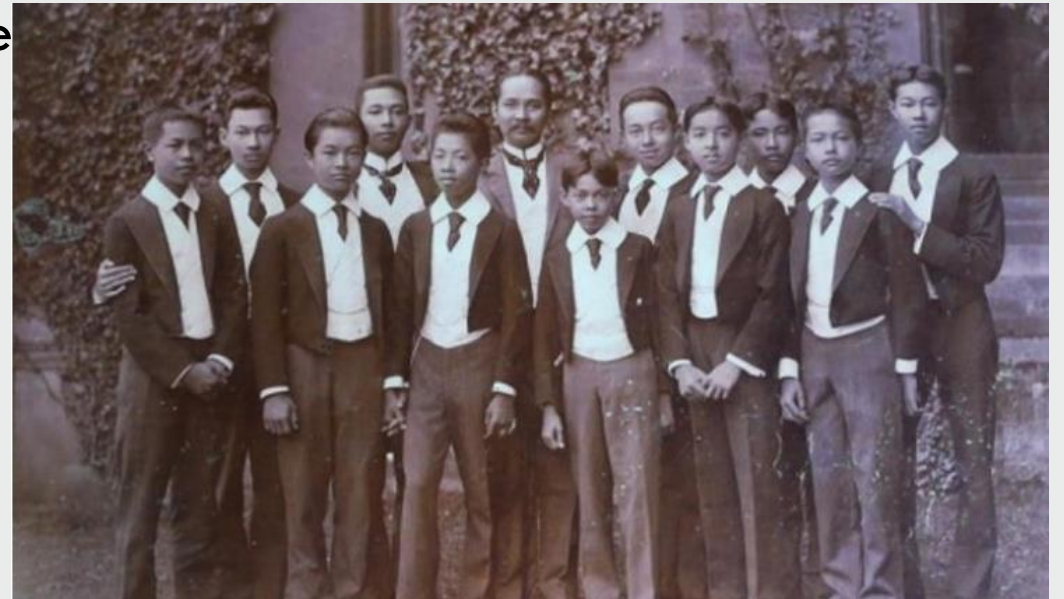
KING RAMA V - EDUCATION

- The ministry of Thammakarn, which was later changed to the ministry of Education, has been established in his period. The new pattern of study has been arranged.

There were many schools establishment during that time.

Prince and royal staff had been studied in Europe

- first Medical school
- first Law school



KING RAMA V - MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Start hospital, medical school and nursing

Expand to be a fundamental of medical and health care in Thailand

KING RAMA V - WESTERN CULTURE TO ROYAL COURT

Clothing styles

Thai Royal family and royal staff were the pioneer group who adopted clothing styles from western culture.

King Rama V went to Europe 2 times, he dressed up in Europe style and it was famous, he was the role model for dressing like European people.



KING RAMA V - MODERN WAY OF LIFE

- Cross culture embraces and adoptive
 - Table manner through fork and spoon instead of hand picking
 - Table and chair sitting instead of floor sitting
 - Clothing, western style or adapt from western style
 - Architecture in housing style



KING RAMA V - ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR OF ROYAL RESIDENCE

In former time, royal courts, palaces and residences were built in Thai traditional style or Chinese style after western culture adopted, they have been changed to be western style



KING RAMA V — CLOTHING (WESTERN CULTURE)

Time for changing from Jong-kraben (baggy pants) to be Pa-sin (skirt)

Pa-sin = western style skirt



SUAN SUNANDHA VS WESTERN TRANSFORMATION

Princess Walai-alongkorn Kromluang Petchaburirajasirithorn, she was the most modern in dressing in European style

She got style from Hollywood and adapted for herself.



SUAN SUNANDHA VS WESTERN TRANSFORMATION

Princess Adorndipayanibha

Western style of dressing



KING RAMA VI - EDUCATION

- started compulsory law for education; all children had to study in government system.
- Chulalongkorn University has been established.



SUAN SUNANDHA VS WESTERN TRANSFORMATION

Since King Rama V's family members moved to live in Suan Sunandha in reign of King Rama VI until Siam Coup d'etat in 1932 (B.E.2475), all royal families who lived in Suan Sunandha got western style adaption.



SUAN SUNANDHA VS WESTERN TRANSFORMATION

Suan Sunandha at that time, it was the center of culture for royal family, both old traditional style as well as contemporary style (mixed with western style)

In front of Her Royal Highness Pra Vimadather's residence had movie film showed which was counted as modern kind of social activity retrieved from western countries.

IMPORTED PLANTS

The plants and flowers had been grown in Suan Sunandha by HRH Pra Vimadather imported from abroad for example, roses, orchids.

This has been described in previous chapter; wisdom of Suan Sunandha.



ARCHITECTURE IN SUAN SUNANDHA AREA

- All the residences inside Suan Sunandha Royal Court
- All premises, monuments or any buildings inside Suan Sunandha
- All got influenced by western style



SUAN SUNANDHA VS WESTERN TRANSFORMATION

Architecture in Suan Sunandha Area

Pratinung Nongkran Samosorn (Pra-ti-nung Nong-kran-sa-mo-sorn)

Nongkran Samosorn Palace has been built in King Rama VI. It has been used as a versatile place for any event, for instance

- Religious merit events
- Parties
- 60 years anniversary for Queen mom (of King Rama VI)
- Place for keeping the “cinerary urn” of HRH Pra Vimadather



NONGKRAN SAMOSORN PALACE



TO SUMMARY

Western cultures had started to come into Rattanakosin period since the middle part of King Rama III's throne.

King Rama IV, also realized that in order to avoid colonialism of western countries, Thailand had to adopt westerner's knowledge so that country would be develop and be civilized same as other countries.

So all the educations, trades, relationships has been established and profound since then.

Suan Sunandha was a part of Suan Dusit Palace, the preliminary objectives for establish Suan Sunandha were for King's relax garden and preparation as residences for the King Rama V's family but it was not done completely during the reign of King Rama V, it finally built up ready in reign of King Rama VI.

The center of Suan Sunandha was the residence of Her Royal Highness Pra Vimadather, she was the one who moved into Suan Sunandha and was followed her by another royal members.

All those lives there had been lived for 8 years before Siam Coup d'etat in 1932 (B.E.2475X which Thailand has been changed from King Hierarchy to be Democracy political policy.



After changed country politic policy, all royal family member has moved out, Suan Sunandha turned to be empty place until 1937 (B.E.2480), the ministers agreed to use this area as an institute. The name given was Suan Sunandha College, teaching from primary until getting diploma of education (primary school teacher).

Afterwards, the ministry of Education changed the new system for teacher's study, Suan Sunandha upscaled to be teacher's college – Suan Sunandha teacher's college.

Highest degree was vocational degree.

Then lifted again till bachelor degree was be the highest education.

RAJABHAT – PEOPLE OF THE KING

After that, the King (Rama IX) has given the honour name as “Rajabhat Institute” for teacher’s college all over Thailand because the institute has broad curriculum to cover various subjects, not only for teaching to be a teacher.

Till finally, the organizational structure is big and well enough for becoming the university.



SUMMARY

Suan Sunandha has been transformed from the royal garden to royal court in reign of King Rama VI when royal family of King Rama V moved to live inside for 8 years.

After Siam Coup d'etat, Suan Sunandha has been left empty.

When King Rama VIII ruled the country with democracy policy, the area of Suan Sunandha has been divided to be academic in one side and the government office under the supervision of Ministry of Internal Affairs.

