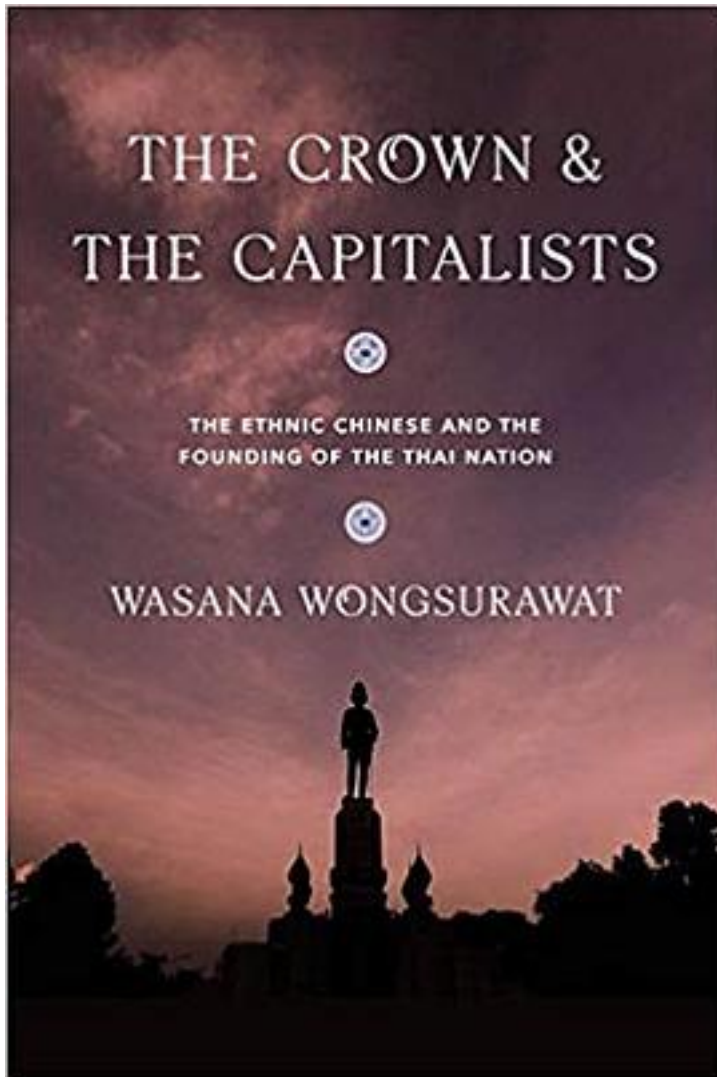


The Crown and the Capitalists



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Despite competing with much larger imperialist neighbors in Southeast Asia, the Kingdom of Thailand—or Siam, as it was formerly known—has succeeded in transforming itself into a rival modern nation-state over the last two centuries. Recent historiography has placed progress—or lack thereof—toward Western-style liberal democracy at the center of Thailand's narrative, but that view underestimates the importance of the colonial context. In particular, a long-standing relationship with China and the existence of a large and important Chinese diaspora within Thailand have shaped development at every stage.

As the emerging nation struggled against colonial forces in Southeast Asia, ethnic Chinese entrepreneurs were neither a colonial force against whom Thainess was identified, nor had they been able to fully assimilate into Thai society. Wasana Wongsurawat demonstrates that the Kingdom of Thailand's transformation into a modern nation-state required the creation of a national identity that justified not only the hegemonic rule of monarchy but also the involvement of the ethnic Chinese entrepreneurial class upon whom it depended. Her revisionist view traces the evolution of this codependent relationship through the twentieth century, as Thailand struggled against colonial forces in Southeast Asia, found itself an ally of Japan in World War II, and reconsidered its relationship with China in the postwar era.

作者介绍:

Wasana Wongsurawat is assistant professor of modern Chinese history at Chulalongkorn University. She is the editor of *Sites of Modernity: Asian Cities in the Transitory Moments of Trade, Colonialism and Nationalism* and coeditor of *Dynamics of the Cold War in Asia: Ideology, Identity, and Culture*.

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标签

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评论

The Crown and the Capitalists非常貼切，本書即在處理泰國王室和泰國華人——尤其是資本家——在泰民族建構過程中的關係。在作者看來，從1910年拉瑪六世當政迄今，Thaination共經歷了Royalist-Colonial(1910-32)，Territorial(1932-45)，Royalist-Territorial(after WW2)三個階段。除了第二階段較為特別，王室和華人資本家始終存在相當多的共同利益，而泰國華人的同化、歧視等問題也應在此框架下思考。（本書面向較多，以上僅為一個重要方面）

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