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Chakri Dynasty

715 words

Nowadays, liberty and equality spread to almost every corner in the world. Like in Thailand, people have same human rights and independence whether whatever the gender is or even what age they are. However, today is extremely different from 1867 A.D., at that time there still had a social class that separated people in the society. The lowest class at that time was the slaves (slavery class). Moreover, surprisingly, one-third of Thai populations were slaves which resulted from domestic economic recession. More people necessarily sold themselves to the nobles to be a slave.¹ Each slave had no freedom they needed to work for their landlords without any payment. Especially, slave was one of the most important problems that inhibited the developing country. It is because the slaves would not have any opportunity to receive education. King Rama V, one of the nine kings in Chakri dynasty, appreciated that slavery problem could harm Thailand. So as he consider, this problem should fix, which lead to one of his contribution to the society. Thus, Chakri Dynasty's most important contribution to mankind was the abolition of slavery by King Rama V which impact to Thai society in many ways.

Firstly, the effect of the abolition of slavery began from western colonialism whose purpose to dominate Thailand. Because most of western countries claimed that they had more civilization and it was their duty to dominate the less civilized

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Chulalongkorn." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 4 Feb 2012. < <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chulalongkorn> >

countries.² So, having slavery might be a reason that can cause Thailand to be colonized by the western. King Rama V saw that Thailand needed to be developed in order to be as equal as other countries. Then Thailand could not be seized by the other. Furthermore, the influence of western's idealism which wants to liberate slaves to be commoners had spread to Thailand's society after trading between Thailand and Western countries from the Bowring treaty, an agreement between the United Kingdom and Thailand, liberalized foreign trade inside the country in 1855.³ Thus, the first impact from the abolition of slavery caused international relationship with other countries to be changed. And the significant impact caused Thailand to be only country in Southeast Asia that has never been colonized from the western powers.⁴

Second impact related to economic side. From the abolishing slavery, Thailand had more commoners in the society. These groups of people became free labor forces. They could find their jobs independently. Most of them did agriculture that caused the economic growth.⁵ Up to now, the large number of labor force or about 49 percents in Thailand is also employed in agriculture.⁶ From the statistical data, it shows that the abolition of slavery also be the agriculture in Thailand because base of

² Suriyan Phinthong. "Rattana Gosin." *Kalawittayalai School*. 4 Feb 2012 <<http://www.kwc.ac.th/0ebook%20ThaiKingdom/10RaTaNaGoSin7-4-6.htm>>

³ "Social Reformation." *Burirumwittayakom Association*. 4 Feb 2012 <http://www.bp-smakom.org/BP_School/Social/Pa-tirup-Social.htm>

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "Thai people." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 5 Feb 2012 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thai_people>

⁵ Wikipedia contributors. "Economy of Thailand." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 5 Feb 2012 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Thailand>

⁶ Wikipedia contributors. "Thailand." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 8 Feb 2012 <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand>>

most of Thai people began harvest more after the abolishing slavery. Thus here was one of the three factors that enhance Thai economy and society progress.⁷

The last impact from the emancipation was Thai people had more respect to Thai monarch. Moreover, the king also had more power among Thai citizens because the slaves were no longer in noble's control.⁸ Hence, those nobles had less number of subordinates which means the less in power. In contrast, if nobles owned many slaves, these powerful would force the throne unstable. Therefore, the abolition of slavery by King Rama V resulted in decreasing of nobles' powers. In addition, Thai people are more loyal to the king until today.

From all the above impacts – politics, economic and social sides – deeply relate to the liberty and the equality which exist in daily life of Thai people up to now. In political side, it generated independence from other countries to Thailand. Also, Thai people have a chance to choose what occupation they are willing to do. Thus, it can hasten domestic economic growth. It is because people can perform their tasks well and its results will stimulate the economic progress. Moreover, from social side impact, it shows that Thai people truthfully respect the king as you obviously see from every Thais. However, the abolition of slavery by King Rama V, one of the Thai beloved kings in Chakri Dynasty, did not contribute to the whole humanities in the world. It caused a huge impact to Thai humanities until now.

⁷Wikipedia contributors. "Rattanakosin Kingdom." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 9 Feb 2012
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rattanakosin_Kingdom>

⁸ "The impact of social reformation." *High School Students Association*. 5 Feb 2012
<<http://www.thaigoodview.com/library/studentshow/st2545/6-6/changesocial.htm>>