



# Shia Muslim from Iran and the Historical Development of Muslim in Thailand

**Dr.Lampong Klomkul**  
**ASEAN Studies Centre**  
**Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University,**  
**Thailand**

# Introduction

Persian or Iranian people were the first group to enter the land of former Ayutthaya capital of Thailand since the 16th century, as well as the most influential trade group in Ayutthaya during the 17th century, most descended from Iranian noble families, such as architects, craftsmen, scholars and poets.

# Introduction

Sheikh Ahmad Qomi came to Siam as a merchant during the reign of King Songdham. He has operated the business until being stable and has entered to the government service position in the Department of Trade with Muslim merchants until being appointed as the position called Phraya Borvornratchanayok and was being a counselor in the reign of King Prasat Thong and their descendants.

# Introduction

Shia Muslim from Iran

Sheikh Ahmad Qomi

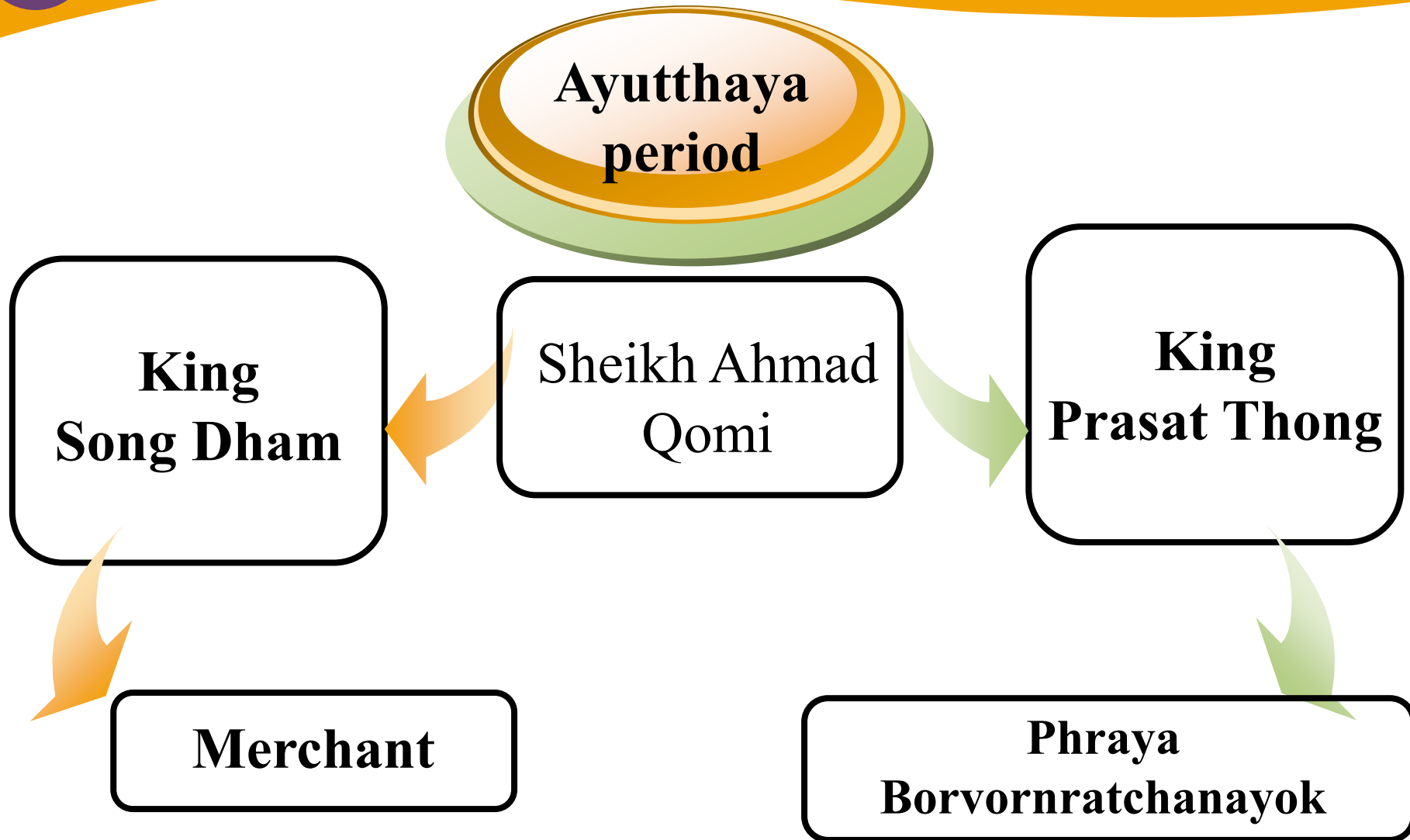
Islamic beliefs and dissemination in Ayutthaya

The first Chula Rachamontri

# The first Chula Rachamontri

Sheikh Ahmad Qomi is a Persian or Iranian merchant who entered to the official position in the reign of King Maha Dhammaracha. (Phra Sri Sanphet 1, C.E. 1569 – 1590) until receiving the position of Chula Rachamontri, the position that governed Muslims in Ayutthaya, called "Phraya Chula Rachamontri", and Sheikh Ahmad Qomi was holding the first person who held this position as showed the evidence in historical evidence.

# The first Chula Rachamontri





# **The first Chula Rachamontri**

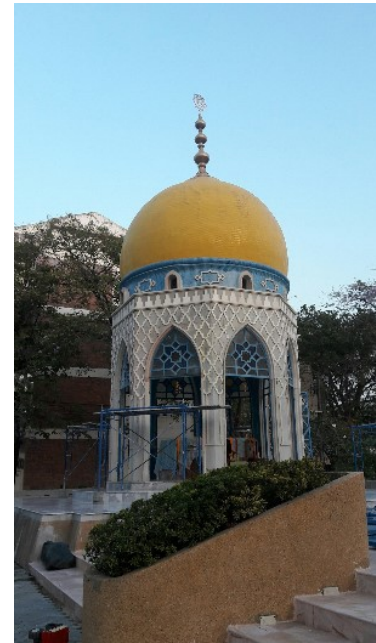
Sheikh Ahmad Qomi who was the first Chula Rachamontri and was a position offered by the King. The main duty of Chula Rachamontri was to manage and cooperate between Muslim and Ayutthaya royal court during that time.



## His duty and generation

- ❖ His Majesty King Songdham gave him control over all Islamic and Muslim affairs in the Kingdom.
- ❖ If looking at the development of the position or the leader of the Muslims in the early 200 years, it will be found that the lineage of Ahmad Qomi from Iran, and it is a history development of the position until the change of rule from the king system or monarchy to be a democratic system.
- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Chula Rachamontri came from Iran.






**Tomb of Sheikh Ahmad Qomi  
in Thailand**

## **The descendants of Sheikh Ahmad**

The descendants of Sheikh Ahmad, there were also other Persian descent and also played a high level in the reign of King Narai the Great, there was Aga Muhammad Akarenabodi, Chao Phraya Yommarat (Sang), Chao Mueang Nakhon Ratchasima, and Chao Phraya Ram Decho who was the ruler of Nakhon Si Thammarat, also had Persian descent.

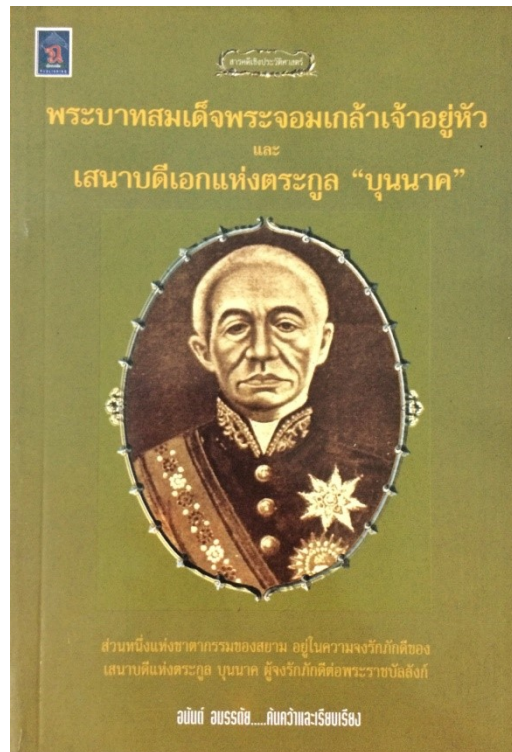
## The descendants of Sheikh Ahmad

At the same time, the lineage of the family of Sheikh Ahmad Qomi was evidence that came from Iran. Has developed a network as an administrative department, for example, holding the position of Royal Navy Department and defense which these positions affect the administration of the country during the entire Ayutthaya period. In addition, Sheikh Ahmad was ancestors of **Bunnag family**, Ahmad Chula Arka Yee and Nonket.



In the reign of King Rama 5 in the Bunnag family Which has evidence that descended from Iran Somdet Chao Phraya Borommaha Srisuriyawong (Bunnag period, 1808-1882) was established as Somdet Chaophraya Borommaha Srisuriyawong during the reign of King Rama V. which counts as the person holding the position "Somdet Chaopraya" was the last person. In addition, he also played a role in bringing the King Rama V to the throne and was appointed regent from 1868 to 1873, with these reflections, is the development of Iran as a direct and indirect way to Thai society.

This book was written about Bunnag Family.



He played a role in bringing the King Rama V to the throne and was appointed regent from 1868 to 1873.

Somdet Chaophraya Borommaha  
Srisuriyawong (Chuang Chuang Bunnag  
period, 1808-1882)



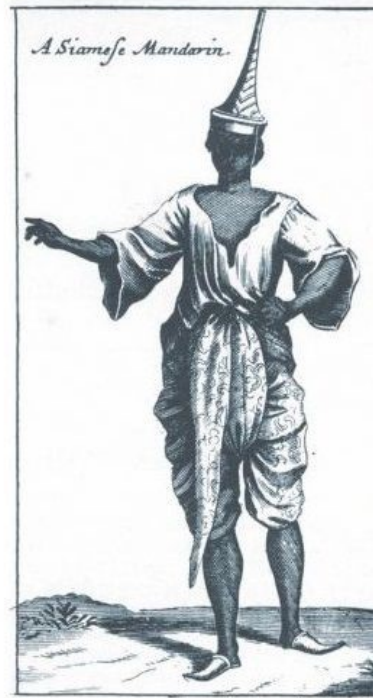
# Cultural development in Siam

- ❖ The Indo-Persian Architectures and the King Narai's Architectural Styles in Phra Narai Palace.
- ❖ Social Ethics Concept from Iranian fairy tale that Muslim during Ayutthaya period was invited to read and tell the story to the King.
- ❖ Iran Rachadhamma was a book that written by from memorizing of Iranian old people. This book brought good moral and ethic into practice for Siam people.



# Cultural development in Siam

- ❖ The harmony between the two cultures is "Lompoc" including the hat for the Thai nobility. It was assumed that this style was inspired by the Muslim Persian turban combined with the Chada style of Thailand.



(ซ้าย) ขุนนางสยาม ลายเส้นจากหนังสือจดหมายเหตุตรา ลูแบร์ (ขวา) ออกญาโกษาธิบดี (ปาน)



## Conclusion

Therefore, if considered from the evidence, will find that the Persian or Iranian Muslims has played an important role since the Ayutthaya era as a capital city and continuously developing with Thai society as well as having a good relationship between diplomatic, economic and international politics throughout the past period, which will present the history and development of Islam in Thailand.





## **Conclusion (Con't)**

Shia Muslim from Iran was the first group who had shown important role of Siam contribution during the reign of Ayutthaya royal court and continues to the present.

## The memory of Shia Muslim from Iran and the Historical Development in Thailand



Tomb of Sheikh Ahmad Qomi

Located in Phranakhon Si Ayutthaya Rajabhat University, Thailand

The background features a light orange gradient. A thick, wavy orange band curves across the middle. On the left, a large purple circle with a white center is partially visible. In the top left, there is a light orange circle and a white square containing a gray sphere. On the right side of the wavy band, there is a small purple sphere and a white circle with an orange outline.

Thank you