

令和 7 年 6 月 19 日現在

機関番号：14301

研究種目：基盤研究(C)（一般）

研究期間：2022～2024

課題番号：22K00911

研究課題名（和文）The Making of Modern Siamese-Burmese Boundaries: The Ethnographic Factor

研究課題名（英文）The Making of Modern Siamese-Burmese Boundaries: The Ethnographic Factor

研究代表者

C Pavin (CHACHAVALPONGPUN, PAVIN)

京都大学・東南アジア地域研究研究所・准教授

研究者番号：40646098

交付決定額（研究期間全体）：（直接経費） 3,300,000円

研究成果の概要（和文）：本研究は、ビルマ・タイ国境（1868-1934年）の形成が、英領ビルマとシャムの調査官による民族分類と現地交渉を通じて構築されたことを明らかにした。調査官たちは民族集団を恣意的に分類し、地理的に固定化することで国境線を描いたが、その結果生じたのは明確な線ではなく、民族的・政治的に曖昧な空間だった。国境地帯の住民も分類に対して受動的ではなく、交渉や抵抗を通じて自身の位置づけを再定義した。こうした動的な境界形成のプロセスは、国家の領域や主権の理解に新たな視座を与える。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

This research advances border studies by revealing how ethnographic practices shaped state formation in Southeast Asia. It highlights the political use of identity in mapping and offers insights into how local agency contested colonial and national authority.

研究成果の概要（英文）：This research revealed that the Burma-Thailand border was shaped not merely by imperial fiat, but through negotiations deeply embedded in ethnographic classification and field encounters. British and Siamese surveyors used inconsistent and often politicized ethnic categories to map and legitimize territorial claims, effectively “placing” certain groups on one side of the border to serve strategic goals. Rather than creating a clear boundary, this process produced zones of ambiguity where identity and sovereignty overlapped. The study demonstrates that ethnic classification was not just a tool of governance but a dynamic force that influenced the very contours of the state. These findings challenge conventional, top-down accounts of border formation by showing how local knowledge, political interest, and ethnographic practice worked together to shape territorial order in mainland Southeast Asia, offering new insights into the co-production of identity, space, and sovereignty.

研究分野：Politics

キーワード：Territorial disputes Siam history Border demarcation Ethnicity Colonial politics Siam-Burmese relations Religion and politics Historical treaty

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1 . 研究開始当初の背景

Territorial disputes around the world have remained a threat to peace and security. In Asia, this problem has persisted despite attempts of states and regional organizations to build dispute settlement mechanisms, from the Thai-Cambodian dispute over the Preah Vihear Temple, the Senkaku/Diaoyu conflict between Japan and China, to the South China Sea dispute concerning overlapping claims of multiple states in maritime territories. The concept of sovereign territory has remained contested partly because it is a rather recent invention. It has a remarkably short history even among well-established states in Europe. Mapping technology was only introduced to the world two centuries ago.

Despite numerous studies on boundary demarcation, the detailed accounts of the actual demarcation process have been limited and mostly focused on the European cases. In the Thai case, Thongchai Winichakul's *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-body of a Nation* (1994) focuses mainly on the historical representation of Siam on maps. But my analysis of ethnographic missions rather focuses on the historical "practices" of drawing, representing, and demarcating the borderline between Siam and Burma. Thailand shares a 2,410-kilometre borders with Myanmar—the longest of all Thai borders with its neighbors. How diplomatic decisions were made is a crucial question the proposed research raises because the actual fieldwork of states involved and the investigation of the border region have rarely been examined.

2 . 研究の目的

The central objective of this project is to investigate how the ethnographic fieldworks formed bounded sovereignty between Siam and Burma. Accordingly, I will analyze 1) how the British and Siamese surveyors/researchers jointly conducted the ethnographic classification; 2) how the findings of ethnographic classification were used to map the border region; and 3) how Britain and Siam diplomatically negotiated the demarcation of the border. I will closely examine how ethno-linguistic factor played a role in determining to which country the people in the border region belong to. Such a detailed analysis of the colonial, ethnographic practices will reveal how arbitrarily the current border between the two countries was constructed in a specific political and historical context.

The scientific significance of this research is that it will assess the significance of the ethnographic factor in the historical practices of defining political boundaries. The Siamese-Burmese case will serve as a model to study how modern territorial boundaries were made around the world. Second, the originality of this research is its interdisciplinary approach to study all aspects of border demarcation. It will incorporate various disciplines as a way to study the border conflicts: history, international relations,

geography and anthropology. To do so, this project will build a long-term international team of researchers for future collaboration in studying territorial conflicts of the present day. Researchers will be invited to research workshops from Thailand, Myanmar, United Kingdom, United States and Japan.

3 . 研究の方法

This project will be partly built upon my current research on the territorial dispute between Thailand and Cambodia. I have reviewed many archival documents and the latest literature, worked on the conceptualization of “sovereign territory,” and published the findings. In Thailand, the territorial dispute with Cambodia has remained in the public’s attention. Given that some parts of the lengthy Thai-Myanmar borders have not been demarcated, I started developing the idea of the current research because the study on border demarcation continues to be of interest among scholars and policymakers alike.

This research project would be part of the current trend on borders and conflicts. The work of Dominic Watt and Carmen Llamas on *Language, Borders and Identity* (2014) examines how language is used to construct borders and to indicate on which side of border speakers situate themselves. It also takes a multi-disciplinary approach by combining sociolinguistic research with human geography, anthropology and social psychology. The study by Peter Rosenberg and Konstanze Jungbluth, *Linguistic Construction of Ethnic Borders* (2015) focuses on the linguistic factor that plays a role in the formation of border. It asks: Which linguistic constructs contribute to the negotiation, establishment and maintenance of ethnic groups and identities? The book by Thai scholar, Pitch Pongsawat, *Border Partial Citizenship, Border Towns, and Thai-Myanmar Cross-Border Development* (2007), raised pertinent questions on the ethnographic factor in the border demarcation. But the domestic and overseas trends in literature tend to conform to a single approach of using the ethnographic factor to explain the border demarcation. My study offers new scholarship on the significance of ethnic taxonomy and diplomatic negotiations, which effectively shaped the outcome of territorial delimitation.

4 . 研究成果

This research revealed that the Burma-Thailand border was shaped not merely by imperial fiat, but through negotiations deeply embedded in ethnographic classification and field encounters. British and Siamese surveyors used inconsistent and often politicized ethnic categories to map and legitimize territorial claims, effectively “placing” certain groups on one side of the border to serve strategic goals. Rather than creating a clear boundary, this process produced zones of ambiguity where identity and sovereignty overlapped. The study demonstrates that ethnic classification was not just a tool of governance but a dynamic force that influenced the very contours of the state. These findings challenge

conventional, top-down accounts of border formation by showing how local knowledge, political interest, and ethnographic practice worked together to shape territorial order in mainland Southeast Asia, offering new insights into the co-production of identity, space, and sovereignty.

5. 主な発表論文等

〔雑誌論文〕 計5件（うち査読付論文 5件/うち国際共著 5件/うちオープンアクセス 2件）

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3. 雑誌名 Asian Journal of Peacebuilding	6. 最初と最後の頁 95 ~ 117
掲載論文のDOI (デジタルオブジェクト識別子) 10.18588/202305.00a336	査読の有無 有
オープンアクセス オープンアクセスとしている (また、その予定である)	国際共著 該当する

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〔学会発表〕 計12件 (うち招待講演 7件 / うち国際学会 5件)

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2. 出版社 Avocado Books	5. 総ページ数 256
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〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

This research revealed that the Burma–Thailand border was shaped not merely by imperial fiat, but through negotiations deeply embedded in ethnographic classification and field encounters. British and Siamese surveyors used inconsistent and often politicized ethnic categories to map and legitimize territorial claims, effectively "placing" certain groups on one side of the border to serve strategic goals. Rather than creating a clear boundary, this process produced zones of ambiguity where identity and sovereignty overlapped. The study demonstrates that ethnic classification was not just a tool of governance but a dynamic force that influenced the very contours of the state. These findings challenge conventional, top-down accounts of border formation by showing how local knowledge, political interest, and ethnographic practice worked together to shape territorial order in mainland Southeast Asia, offering new insights into the co-production of identity, space, and sovereignty.

6. 研究組織

	氏名 (ローマ字氏名) (研究者番号)	所属研究機関・部局・職 (機関番号)	備考
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7. 科研費を使用して開催した国際研究集会

〔国際研究集会〕 計2件

国際研究集会 Territorial Boundary in Southeast Asia	開催年 2023年～2024年
国際研究集会 Territorial Boundary in Southeast Asia	開催年 2023年～2024年

8. 本研究に関連して実施した国際共同研究の実施状況

共同研究相手国	相手方研究機関
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