Contents

Illustrations vii

Preface ix

Thai Language Conventions xiii

Acknowledgments xv

INTRODUCTION
The Presence of Nationhood
The Two-Way Identification of Nationhood 1
The Positive and Negative Identification of Thainess 3
Thai Studies 6
Struggles for Interpretation 9
Siam as a Cultural Construct 12
Subject and Method 16

Indigenous Space and Ancient Maps
Sacred Topographies 20
Imaginary Spatial Depiction: Ancient Maps 24
The Coexistence of Different Concepts of Space 33

The Coming of a New Geography
Two Earths, Same Space: The Advent of Modern Earth
Breakthrough: Astronomy via Astrology 42
Space in a New Mode: Modern Geography 47
Space Encoded: The Modern Map 51
Modality: Ambiguity and Displacement 56

Boundary
Western Boundary on the Western Frontier 62
Clashes of Conceptions of Boundary 68
The Nonbounded Kingdom 74

CHAPTER THREE

Figure 11
Cartoon from Vajiravudh's Time

Figure 12
Symbol of the Saichaithai Foundation

Figure 13
History of Thailand's Boundary

Figure 14
Movements of Thai People from Ancient to Modern Times

Figure 15 Kingdom of Nanchao

Figure 16
Kingdom of Sukhothai in the Reign of
King Ramkhamhaeng the Great

Figure 17
Kingdom of Ayudhya in the Reign of
King Naresuan the Great

Figure 18
Kingdom of Thonburi in the Reign of King Taksin

Figure 19
Kingdom of Rattanakosin in the Reign of King Rama I

Figure 20 "Wake Up, Thai People"