



ISLAM AND MALAY NATIONALISM:

A Case Study of
the Malay – Muslims
of Southern Thailand

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protests against Thai rule. At various historical periods, responding to changes in Thai national politics, the movement for autonomy took various forms, and the central theme and binding force has always been Islam and its rich symbolism. Now the Malay-Muslims of Southern Thailand have expressed their wishes against Thai rule and their aspirations for autonomy through their religious rituals and festivals. This has been another important theme of this study.

The Dissertation also explores the process of consolidation of power on the part of the Thai government over this minority group. Their religious institutions, traditional places of learning and leadership have been penetrated in order to intergrate them into the Thai polity. That process and the Malay-Muslims' reaction to it is analyzed. The impact of the pan-Islamic conversion efforts, the Patronage of Islam in 1943, and the government attempt to codify and Islamize the "Islamic law" of family and inheritance

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