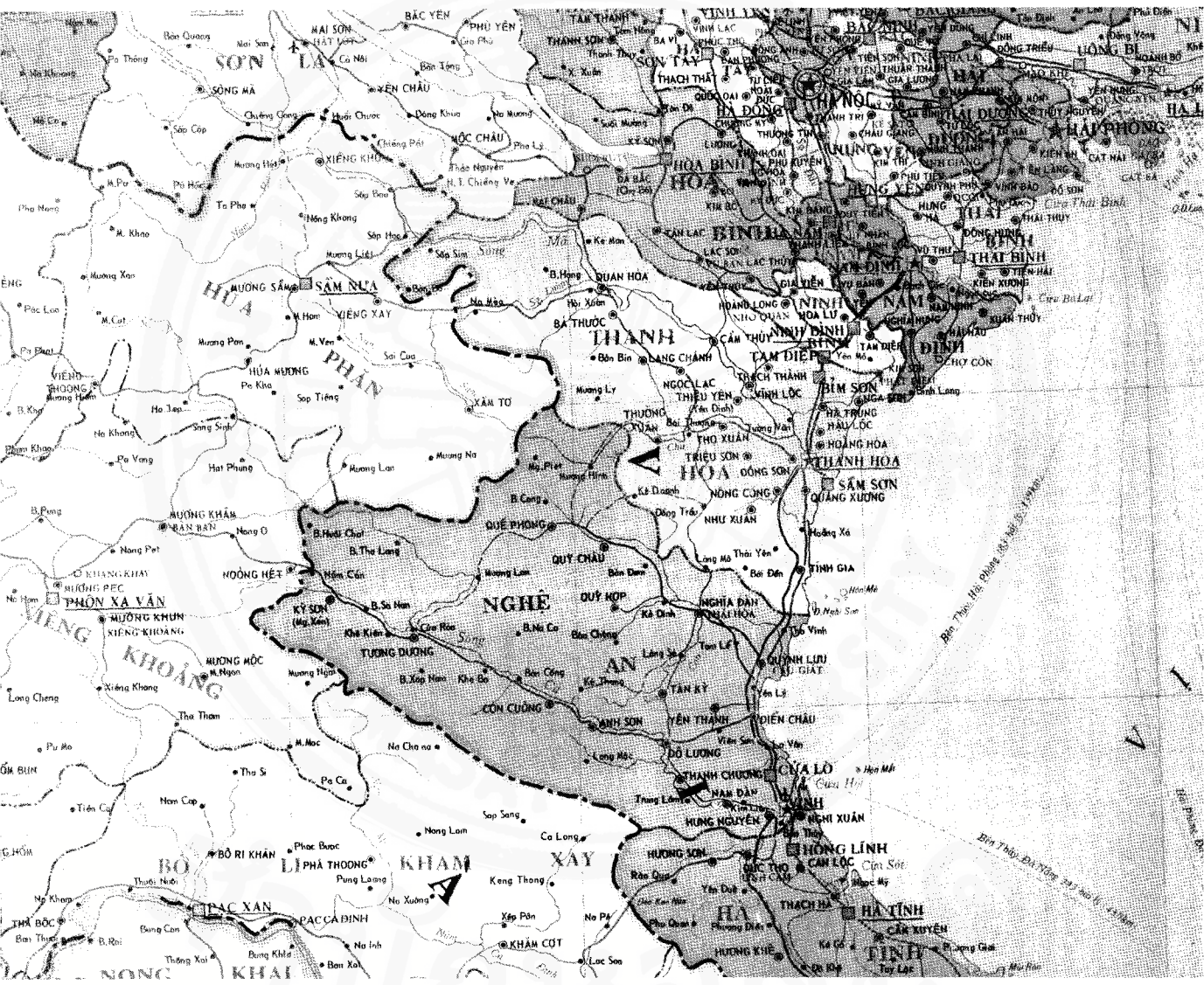



Synopsis

This report presents the ethnological findings of a field investigation of Tai Muong and Tai Thanh groups who live in the original Tai community called “Muong Qua.” The community is situated in the present village of Mon son, Con Cuong District, Nghe An Province in the north-western part of Vietnam, not far from the Lao border towards Chiang Kwang. The area has been a Tai settlement from time immorial. The ancient Tai must have lived side by side with Mon-Khmer and Muong peoples. The Muong spoke the Viet-Muong language. Politically, the community was traditionally organized into villages or ban (headed by toom ban) and towns or muong (headed by chao muong). Many ban formed a muong. The organization was similar to the traditional Thai and Lao political structure. However, such organization underwent certain changes at the beginning of the nineteenth century when the area came under the Vietnamese influence during the Nguyen Dynasty. The Vietnamese form of local administration was adopted. Nevertheless, it was the Tai who remained local rulers even after Vietnam was colonized by France towards the end of the nineteenth century. In 1954 when France was defeated, Vietnam abolished the traditional form of government altogether, thus also putting an end to the long tradition of Tai local autonomy.

The Tai who have lived in various districts in Nghe An are called “Tai Muong.” During the past one hundred years or so, there was another group of Tai who migrated from Thanh Hoa into Nghe An and came under the Tai Muong administration. In such circumstances, they were obliged to offer their service to the Tai Muong, e.g. farming, building and repairing houses, and doing other manual work for the community. They were called by the Tai Muong inhabitants “Man Thanh” which means the barbarians from Thanh Hoa. The name was subsequently changed to Tai Thanh in an effort to minimize the prejudicial attitude of the local inhabitants in line with the modern Vietnamese policy.

Tai Muong and Tai Thanh are ethnological groups who speak the Tai language family and share a common cultural heritage. However, after several hundred years of separation, they evolved their own identities in such a way that each appears ethnologically distinct from the other. This research attempts to compare the similarities and differences between Tai Muong and Tai Thanh in Muong Qua, paying attention to such matters as housing characteristics, costumes, systems of kinship, beliefs, ceremonies related to life cycle, cosmology, folklore, etc. It also describes their living conditions, economic systems and governments, as well as other social and political transformations that have taken place in Muong Qua up to the present time.



The background features a large, faint watermark of the Thammasat University logo. The logo is circular, containing a central emblem of a tiered umbrella (parasol) with a crown on top, flanked by two figures holding hands. The text "THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY" is written in English around the bottom half of the circle, and Thai text is written around the top half.

คนไทเมืองกว่า
ไทแดงและไทเมืองในประเทศไทยเวียดนาม

สำนักหอสมุด



สำนักหอสมุด