

School of Humanities and Social Sciences



June 11, 2021

Report by a Member of the Dissertation Council on the Thesis by MOSKALEV Petr Eduardovich, "Overseas Chinese in the History of Thailand and Vietnam in the 20th – Beginning of the 21st Centuries".

Submitted in conformity with the Requirements for the Degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences, 07.00.03 – General History (Modern and Contemporary History), St. Petersburg State University

I have read and examined Petr Eduardovich Moskalev's doctoral dissertation entitled, "Overseas Chinese in the History of Thailand and Vietnam in the 20th – Beginning of the 21st Centuries" in English translation. This is an original contribution to knowledge. It is extremely well structured and organised. The logic of the argumentation is clearly set out. The dissertation is extremely well documented with source material in the Russian, Chinese, and English languages. The bibliography – list of sources and literature – is encyclopaedic.

I recommend that this thesis merits the award of Dr. of Historical Sciences.

General Comments

The structure of the dissertation takes the form of an introduction, two substantial chapters, a conclusion and a list of sources and literature.

The introduction provides a clear explanation of the objectives of the thesis, its significance, relevance, key research questions, literature review, sources consulted and methodology.

Chapters 1 and 2 are structured the same way. Chapter 1 provides an historical account of Chinese immigration to Thailand prior to the 20th Century, and then proceeds to provide an in-depth empirically rich analysis of factors that led to Chinese immigration and the role of ethnic Chinese in Thailand in the 20th and early years of the 21st Century.

Chapter 2 focuses on the overseas Chinese in Vietnam and follows a similar structure. It is similar in quality (but see comments below).

Both chapters 1 and 2 include a chart summarising the characteristics of the overseas Chinese community in various historical stage in the 20th and

School of Humanities and Social Sciences



June 11, 2021

Report by a Member of the Dissertation Council on the Thesis by MOSKALEV Petr Eduardovich, "Overseas Chinese in the History of Thailand and Vietnam in the 20th – Beginning of the 21st Centuries".

Submitted in conformity with the Requirements for the Degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences, 07.00.03 – General History (Modern and Contemporary History), St. Petersburg State University

I have read and examined Petr Eduardovich Moskalev's doctoral dissertation entitled, "Overseas Chinese in the History of Thailand and Vietnam in the 20th – Beginning of the 21st Centuries" in English translation. This is an original contribution to knowledge. It is extremely well structured and organised. The logic of the argumentation is clearly set out. The dissertation is extremely well documented with source material in the Russian, Chinese, and English languages. The bibliography – list of sources and literature – is encyclopaedic.

I recommend that this thesis merits the award of Dr. of Historical Sciences.

General Comments

The structure of the dissertation takes the form of an introduction, two substantial chapters, a conclusion and a list of sources and literature.

The introduction provides a clear explanation of the objectives of the thesis, its significance, relevance, key research questions, literature review, sources consulted and methodology.

Chapters 1 and 2 are structured the same way. Chapter 1 provides an historical account of Chinese immigration to Thailand prior to the 20th Century, and then proceeds to provide an in-depth empirically rich analysis of factors that led to Chinese immigration and the role of ethnic Chinese in Thailand in the 20th and early years of the 21st Century.

Chapter 2 focuses on the overseas Chinese in Vietnam and follows a similar structure. It is similar in quality (but see comments below).

Both chapters 1 and 2 include a chart summarising the characteristics of the overseas Chinese community in various historical stage in the 20th and

early years of the 21st Century in Thailand and Vietnam, respectfully. A similar chart is included in the conclusion. These charts reinforce the candidate's argument and conclusion.

The conclusion provides a masterful summary of the main arguments of this dissertation. The conclusion is clear and to the point and reinforces the conclusions advanced in chapters 1 and 2.

Additional Comments

The candidate refers to the system theory of the "arcs of instability" in his introduction (p. 17) and lightly touches upon this concept in the empirical chapters. The thesis could be strengthened by providing more background and explanation on the impact of "arcs of instability" in the introduction and in the relevant sections of the chapters on Thailand and Vietnam.

The chapter on Vietnam could have been strengthened if more empirical detail had been added concerning the overseas Chinese community in northern Vietnam and their flight to southern China in 1978-79 when bilateral relations between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic deteriorated. It is unclear what legal status these ethnic Chinese had at the time. What were the factors that motivated this exodus? According to historian David G. Marr, they were "the meat in the sandwich."

Also, the discussion of the fate of the overseas Chinese community in southern Vietnam could have been strengthened by an account of Vietnam's campaign against bourgeois trade that targeted the comprador bourgeoisie who were largely ethnic Chinese (Hoa people). The candidate mentions Chinese allegations of persecution. In fact, China dispatched several ships to evacuate "the ostracized and persecuted Chinese" but Vietnam refused to let the ships land.

Finally, the candidate should have made clear what the cut-off date was for his thesis. The "beginning of the 21st Century" is vague. I raise this because the thesis was completed in 2020. No account is given of the anti-bauxite mining protests in Vietnam in the 1990s that involved Chinese business interests in the Central Highlands, the rise of Chinese labour migration to Vietnam to provide the work force for Chinese development projects, the anti-Chinese riots that took place in Vietnam in 2014 as a result of the Hai Yang Shi You 981 incident in waters off Vietnam's northern coast, and anti-Chinese reaction by the Vietnamese public to a proposed law to set up three Special Administrative and Economic Zones and grant ninety-nine year leases reportedly to Chinese investors.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlyle A. Thayer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlyle A. Thayer,
Emeritus Professor