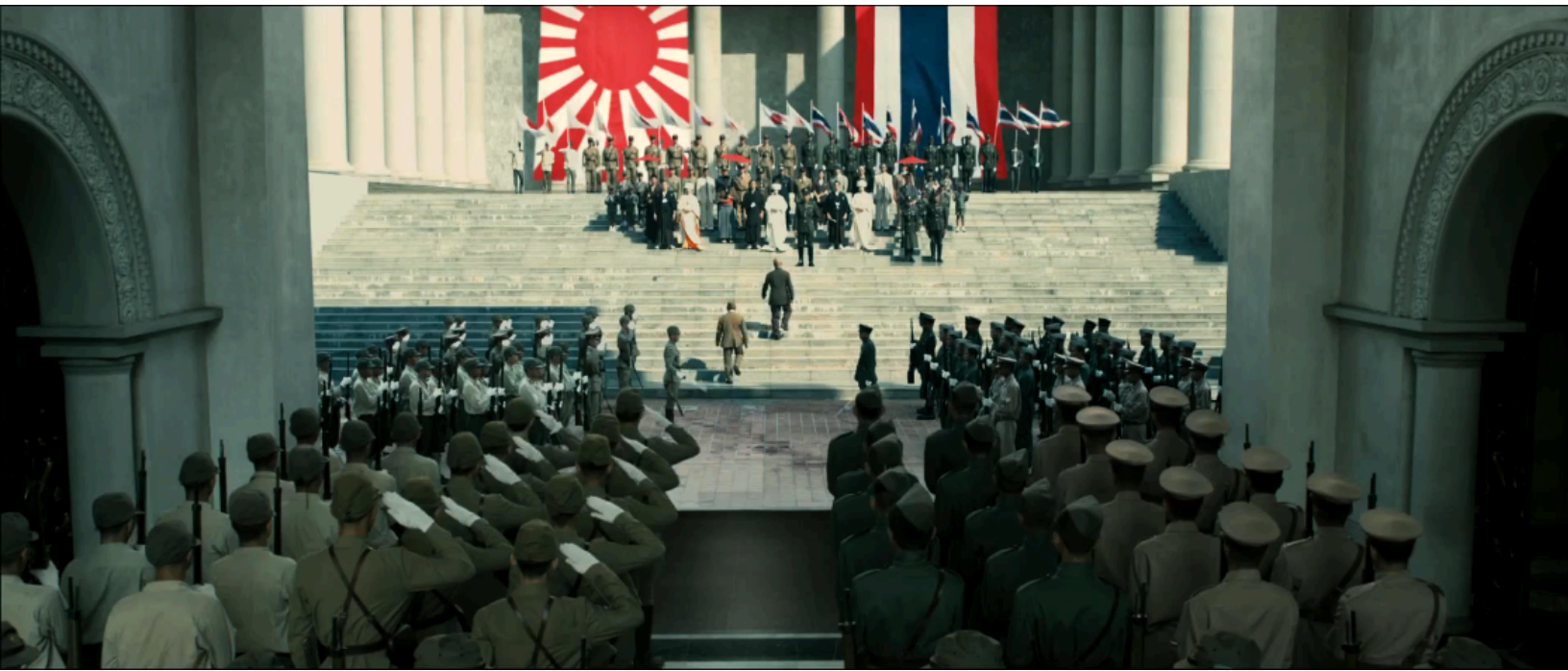


History of Thailand in WW2



Timeline

- Japan attacks South-East Asia and Pearl Harbor
- The Thai government cooperates with the Japanese rather than fight
- *Plaek Phibunsongkhram*
- Thailand declared war on the United States and Britain
- Japan lost the war

- After the war
 - *The conflict between Britain and the United States to Thailand*
 - Advantage of Japanese invasion of Thailand
 - *Wing 7*
 - *The Death railway*
-

Japan attack south east asia and Pearl Harbor

Japan attacks South-East Asia and Pearl Harbor at the same time on December 7, 1941. Most of the Japanese troops came from into the south of Thailand. It was a surprise attack and happened very quickly, so the enemy did not have time to prepare for their attack.



The Thai government would rather work with the Japanese rather than fight

Thailand had adopted a position of neutrality until it was invaded by Japan in December 1941. The Japanese Empire pressured the Thai government to allow the Japanese troops to pass through in order to invade the then British-held Malaya (Malaysia) and Burma (Myanmar). The Thai government, under Plaek Phibunsongkhram, decided to cooperate with the Japanese.

Plaek Phibunsongkhram

He was born on 14 July 1897. He held to title of prime minister for the longest period in Thailand history (14 years, 11 months, 18 days). He was prime minister of Thailand during World War 2. After World War 2 ended and the Japanese lost the war, Plaek Phibunsongkhram became a war criminal due to his friendly relationship with Japan.

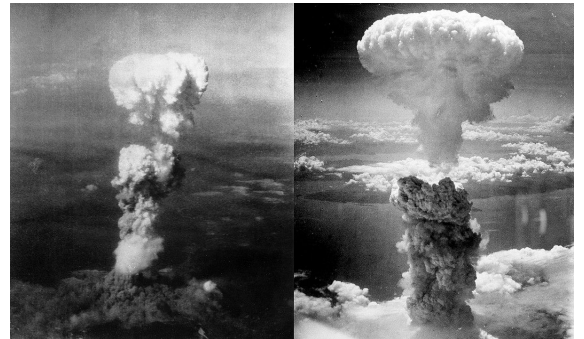


Thailand declared war on the United States and Britain

Thailand declared war on 25 January 1942 because at the beginning of the war the Japanese army were victorious, so Thailand declared war on Britain and United States thinking that Japan will win the war.

Japan lost the war

United States dropped the nuclear bomb to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan on 6 and 9 August. Soon afterwards Japan surrendered. This made all the leaders of countries that joined the Axis Powers (Japanese side) war criminals. Thailand was one of them, Plaek Phibunsongkhram was to be executed.



After the war

Plaek Phibunsongkhram became a war criminal. Wong Apaiwong became the prime minister replacing Plaek Phibunsongkhram. To save Plaek Phibunsongkhram he said the war declared between Thailand and the Allies was void because Pridi Banomyong, one of the senior statesman of Thailand, was not signed.

The conflict between Britain and the United States to Thailand

After the war had ended the attitude between Britain and the United States became different. Britain wanted Thailand to pay for the damage like the other countries that lost the war because Thailand had declared war to Britain and lost the war but the United States wanted to reorganize the world and want to cancel the colonial system. The United States wanted Thailand to be independent because Thailand is the only country in this region that had never been colonized by any other nation. The United States considered that Thailand was occupied by the enemy and took the war declaration between Thailand and the Allies as void like Wong Apaiwong's

claim.

Advantage of the Japanese invasion of Thailand

Japan built a lot of things to use in the war and a lot of them are still used now. These are some examples of the places that the Japanese built in World War 2

Wing 7, Surat Thani, Thailand

It was an airport that Japan had built for use in World War 2. Today it is one of the most advanced and main air bases in Thailand. This air base looks after Thai marine resources and every piece of land in the south of Thailand.



- wing7
- Thai marine resources area



The Death railway

The reason it's called the death railway is because this railway was built during World War 2 by the Japanese prisoners of war. The railway is 415 kilometers long and in total one hundred thousand prisoners died while building it. It is a very interesting and beautiful railway because it crosses the cliff along the Kwai Noi river. In the future Thailand and Burma said they will restore the railway to connect the countries again.



Jinno Puttipat Pohnanantaroj