

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53045

Date: 29/07/2025

Title: "THE BANGKOK TREATY OF 1909 AS THE BEGINNING TO BRITISH DOMINATION IN THE NORTHERN MALAY STATES: A LITERATURE REVIEW"

Recommendation:

Accept

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techno. Quality			√	
Clarity			√	
Significance			√	

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Haseeb Mir

Date: 29/07/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The article presents a literature-based examination of the Bangkok Treaty of 1909, positioning it as a pivotal moment marking the onset of British dominance over the northern Malay States. The author effectively surveys historical and scholarly sources, situating the treaty within the broader imperial rivalry between Britain and Siam (Thailand). By highlighting how the treaty redefined sovereignty, territorial boundaries, and administrative control, the article sheds light on a less frequently explored moment in Southeast Asian colonial history.

One of the strengths of the paper lies in its comprehensive referencing and engagement with both Western and regional historiography. The discussion provides useful insight into how the treaty served British geopolitical interests and set the stage for long-term colonial governance in Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, and Terengganu.

However, the article would benefit from a clearer analytical framework and more critical engagement with contrasting interpretations. While it compiles sources well, the author could strengthen the narrative by offering a more structured synthesis and clarifying how the treaty's legacy is debated in current literature.

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Despite minor organizational issues, this is a timely and informative review of historical scholarship. I recommend its publication after minor revisions for clarity and coherence.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The article explores the Bangkok Treaty of 1909 as a pivotal event that initiated British colonial domination over the northern Malay States, presenting it as a strategic imperial move rather than a mere diplomatic agreement. Through an extensive literature review drawing from both traditional and postcolonial sources, the author demonstrates how the treaty redefined power dynamics in Southeast Asia by expanding British influence and curtailing Siamese control over key territories. The review's major strengths lie in its choice of a focused and regionally significant topic, comprehensive engagement with diverse scholarly interpretations, effective historical contextualization, and clear, accessible language. The article situates the treaty within broader frameworks of colonial administration and international diplomacy, enhancing the reader's understanding of its long-term impact. However, the article lacks deeper analytical engagement with its sources and misses the opportunity to frame the discussion within a defined theoretical perspective such as imperialism or treaty law. Additionally, reliance on older sources limits the review's relevance in contemporary academic debates, and the conclusion, though summarizing the core argument, fails to reflect on the treaty's modern implications for Malaysia–Thailand relations or regional identity. To strengthen the work, the author should incorporate more recent literature, compare scholarly disagreements more explicitly, adopt a critical tone when evaluating historical interpretations, and expand the conclusion to address the treaty's lasting legacy. Overall, the article is well-structured, informative, and timely, and it makes a significant contribution to the field of Southeast Asian colonial history. With minor revisions aimed at improving analytical depth and academic framing, it is well-suited for publication and will serve as a valuable resource for researchers and students interested in historical treaty politics, British imperialism, and the transformation of political boundaries in colonial Southeast Asia.

Recommendation: Accept with minor revisions.

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