

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53045

Date: 30-07-2025

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

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance			✓	

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Hameed Shah

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Summary of Content:

The manuscript reviews the political and socio-economic implications of the Bangkok Treaty of 1909, which transferred control of Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu, and Perlis from Siamese influence to British colonial administration. Through historical research and content analysis, the study highlights three key themes explored in previous scholarship: the historical and political dynamics leading to the treaty, the treaty's terms and their socio-political impact on the Northern Malay States, and the manner in which the agreement entrenched British dominance in the region. The review underscores how the treaty reshaped territorial boundaries, administrative frameworks, and power structures, thus influencing the colonial legacy that continues to shape Malaysia's modern history.

Strengths:

- The manuscript situates the Bangkok Treaty of 1909 as a pivotal event in the colonial history of the Malay Peninsula, linking it to broader themes of imperialism and regional geopolitics.

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- It draws on diverse scholarly perspectives, analyzing both political motivations and socio-cultural implications, including the concept of epistemic control and the dialectics of power.
- The introduction effectively frames the treaty as a strategic response by Siam to the pressures of Western colonial powers, adding depth to the historical narrative.
- The study's focus on power relations and the preservation of sovereignty provides a nuanced interpretation of Siam's diplomatic strategies.

Scientific Quality:

The review demonstrates thorough engagement with credible historical sources and literature, reflecting the complex international politics surrounding the treaty. It incorporates theoretical frameworks such as power discourse and utilitarian state philosophy, strengthening its analytical dimension.

Relevance and Impact:

The manuscript is highly relevant for historians, political scientists, and scholars of Southeast Asian studies. It offers valuable insights into colonial legacies and the shaping of political boundaries in the region, contributing to ongoing discussions on the historical roots of modern state formation in Malaysia.

Overall Evaluation:

The manuscript provides a well-structured and detailed literature review that deepens the understanding of the Bangkok Treaty of 1909 as a turning point in British colonial expansion. Its emphasis on power dynamics and colonial legacy makes it an important contribution to the historiography of Southeast Asia.