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Studies in Thai and Southeast Asian HISTORIES

CHARNVIT KASETSIRI

Introduction by Barbara Watson Andaya

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Those who have followed Charnvit's journey along the winding yellow brick road know that his journey has not always been easy; certainly he has passed through pleasant meadows and attractive gardens, but at other times his way has been blocked by fallen rocks or obscured by dark patches. While I would not wish to overplay the Oz-derived metaphor, the clarity and perceptiveness of his vision of the past and his commentaries about the present have effectively removed the colored spectacles with which Thailand's history and its current condition have often been viewed. But the exchange is far from being one-way. Charnvit himself would agree that he has learned much during the past forty years, and that in the process has come to understand his own country better. Throughout the pages of this book the fruits of that knowledge and that understanding are supremely evident.

"

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