

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Ayutthaya: Venice of the East**

Derek Garnier

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Reviewed by John Barnes

I like to support small publishers and River books here in Bangkok is one such publisher. River books always produce books of a high standard in both format and content.

Although this book was originally published in 2004 I only recently found a beautiful copy whilst browsing at River Books bookstore behind Wat Po. RECENTLY Asia books and Kinokuniya also sell these books.

This slim volume is beautifully produced on high quality paper, hard cover and exquisite color plates.

The book comprises Acknowledgement and a Foreword and then nine chapters covering beginning with the Rise and concluding with the Fall of Ayutthaya.

Intervening chapters cover The River Road to Ayutthaya; The City of Ayutthaya; The Portuguese and Spanish in Ayutthaya; The Dutch; The British and The French;

The substantial end part of this book includes A Map of Ayutthaya; a List of Sources and an Index.

Numerous illustrations comprise pages 155 to 199. Finally A Map of the Chao Phraya River is shown on page 200.

A small criticism would be chapters missing on The Persians; Malays; Indonesians; Kampuchians; Vietnamese, Indians, Japanese and Chinese. However, to include them in this volume, would have made it a very large volume and possibly delayed publication. Perhaps later a second volume to could be added.

Congratulations to Khun Narisa Chakrabongse and the production team on another beautiful publication This book is highly recommended to all lovers of Thai history.