

MAIN ETHNIC GROUPS

diversity of ethno-linguistic groups living in Thailand, 2022

Thailand is a multi-ethnic country, there are 5 main ethnic groups classified by ethno-linguistic. Within the Thai ethnic group, there are descendants from many races, such as Malay, Mon, Khmer and Lao. Since Thailand is surrounded by Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia, making the nation prone to immigration from these countries. Thailand was mainly inhabited by indigenous Austro-Asiatic peoples in the central plains and Northeast, and in the South by Malayo peoples.



Lahu

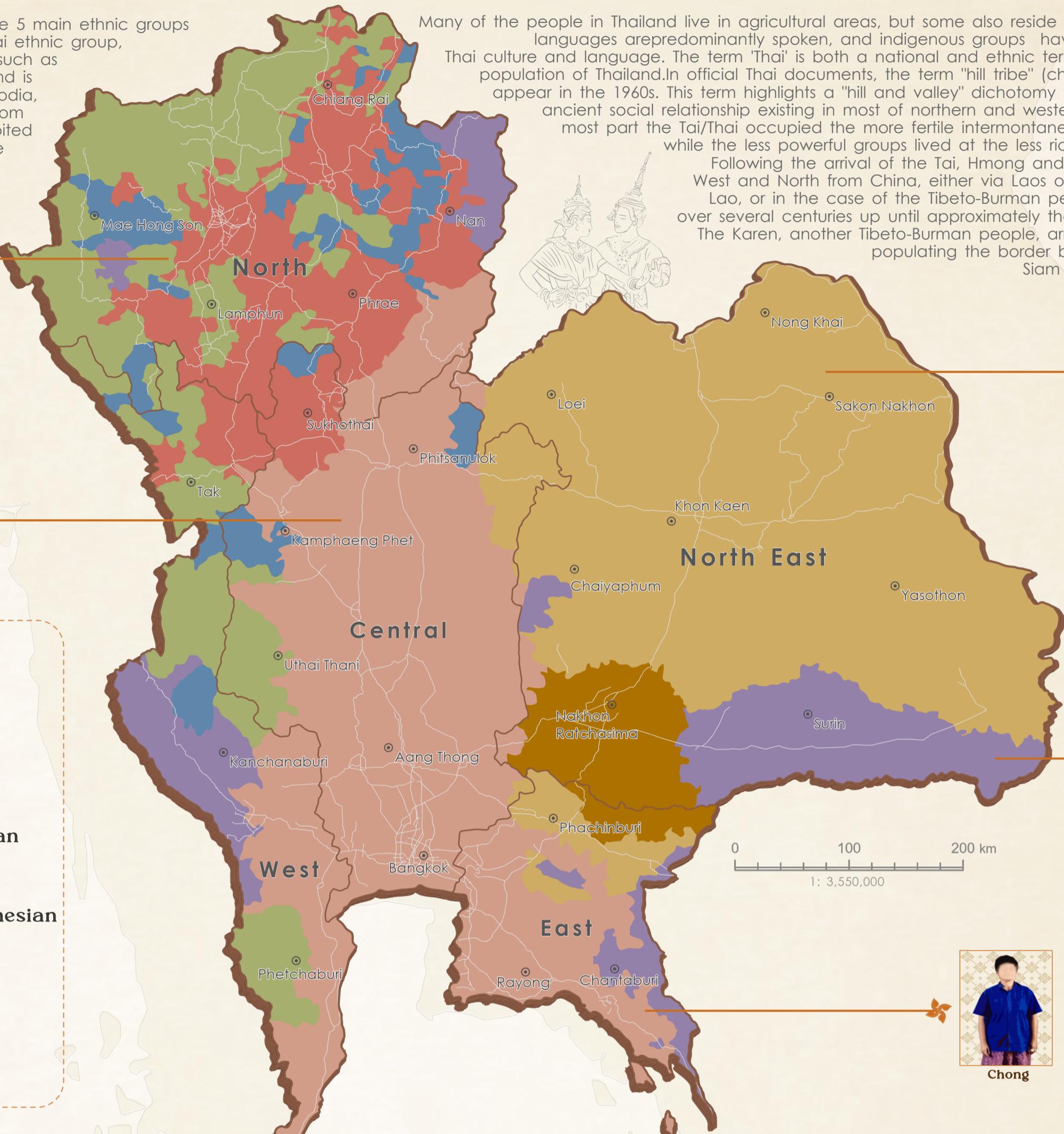


Karen

Ethno-linguistic groups

Tai Kadai	Mon-Khmer
Siameses	Miao-Yao
Tai Korat	Tibeto-Burman
Tai Lao	Northern Tai
Northern Tai	Southern Tai
Southern Tai	Malayo-Polynesian

- Province
- State boundary
- Region boundary
- Road



Many of the people in Thailand live in agricultural areas, but some also reside in urban areas. Thai languages are predominantly spoken, and indigenous groups have strongly adopted Thai culture and language. The term 'Thai' is both a national and ethnic term for the dominant population of Thailand. In official Thai documents, the term "hill tribe" (chao khao) began to appear in the 1960s. This term highlights a "hill and valley" dichotomy that is based on an ancient social relationship existing in most of northern and western Thailand. For the most part the Tai/Thai occupied the more fertile intermontane basins and valleys, while the less powerful groups lived at the less rich higher elevations.

Following the arrival of the Tai, Hmong and Mien arrived in the West and North from China, either via Laos or Vietnam and then Lao, or in the case of the Tibeto-Burman peoples (Akha, Lahu), over several centuries up until approximately the twentieth century. The Karen, another Tibeto-Burman people, arrived at and began populating the border between Burma and Siam in the 13th century.



Tai Lao

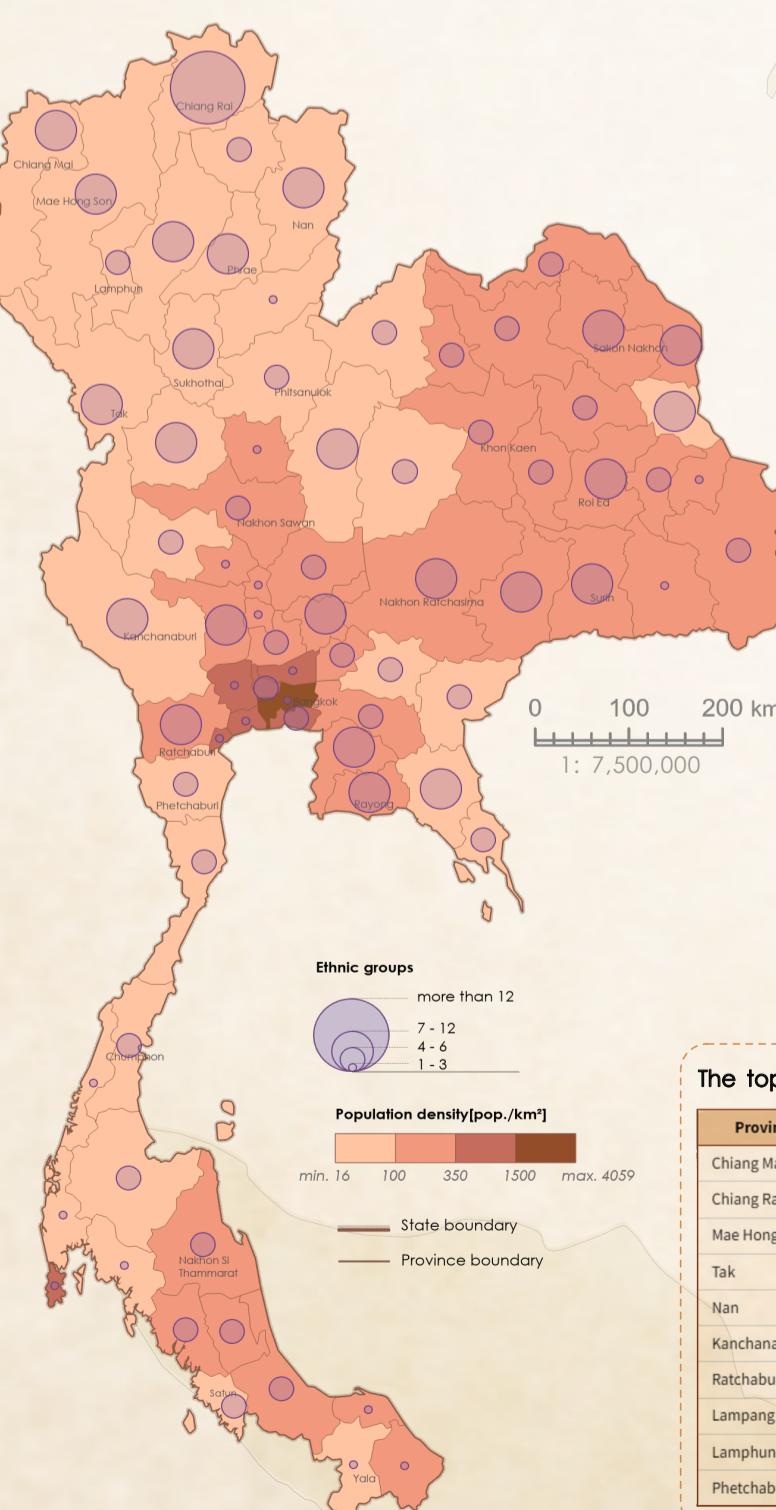


Kui

Chong

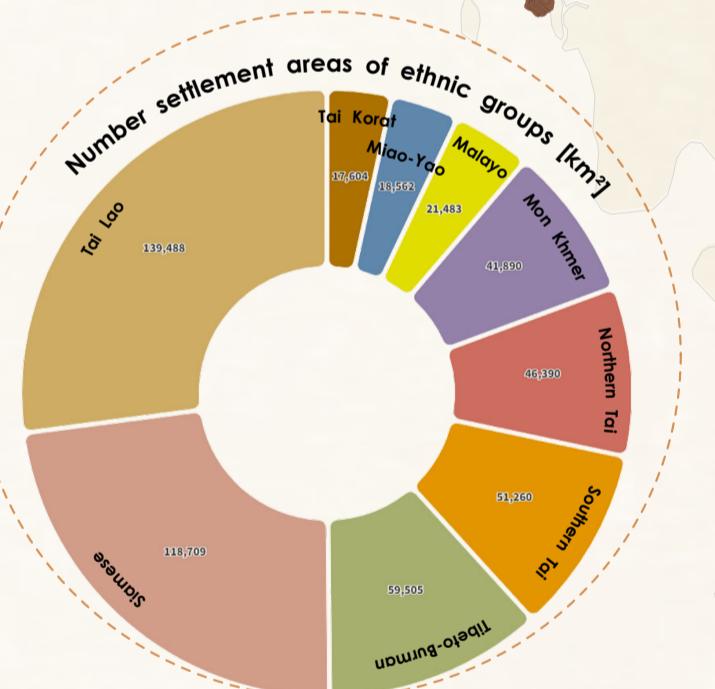
NUMBER OF ETHNIC GROUPS

with population density each province. Thailand, 2022



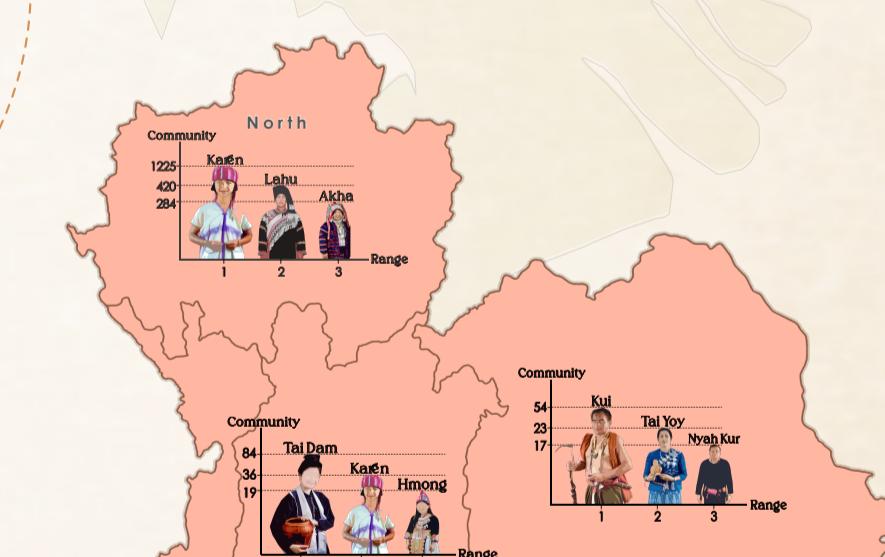
The top ten provinces with the largest number of groups

Province	Main groups	Number of Community	Number of Groups
Chiang Mai	Karen, Hmong, Mien	1003	12
Chiang Rai	Lahu, Akha, Mien	731	18
Mae Hong Son	Shan, Karen, Siamese	590	10
Tak	Karen, Hmong, Lahu	454	10
Nan	Hmong, Khamu, Mien	256	9
Kanchanaburi	Chong	191	9
Ratchaburi	Siamese, Viet, Mon	80	4
Lampang	Mon, Hmong	64	6
Lamphun	Karen	59	1
Phetchaburi	Karen, Mon, Phuan	54	4



TOP THREE MOST COMMON GROUPS

found in each region. Thailand, 2022



Data source: Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre and Open Government Data of Thailand. Coordinate system: WGS 84 UTM Zone 47 Author: Parinda Pannnon, Master student in Copernicus Master in Digital Earth, Palacky University Olomouc Date: 10/12/2023



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