The map of Tai speakers illustrates the link between political entity and ethnic affiliation. Tai-speaking populations, who share many social and cultural similarities, are distinguished above all by their affiliation with a political entity: the Tai Lue were the inhabitants of Sipsongpanna, the Tai Khao of Muang Lai (Lai Chau), the Tai Dam of the regions around Muang Theng (Điện Biên Phu) and Muang Muoi, etc. We can see that these groups form fairly compact populations, and that their scattering far and wide happened in later migrations. You will also observe that the Lao are now more numerous in Thailand than in Laos.