

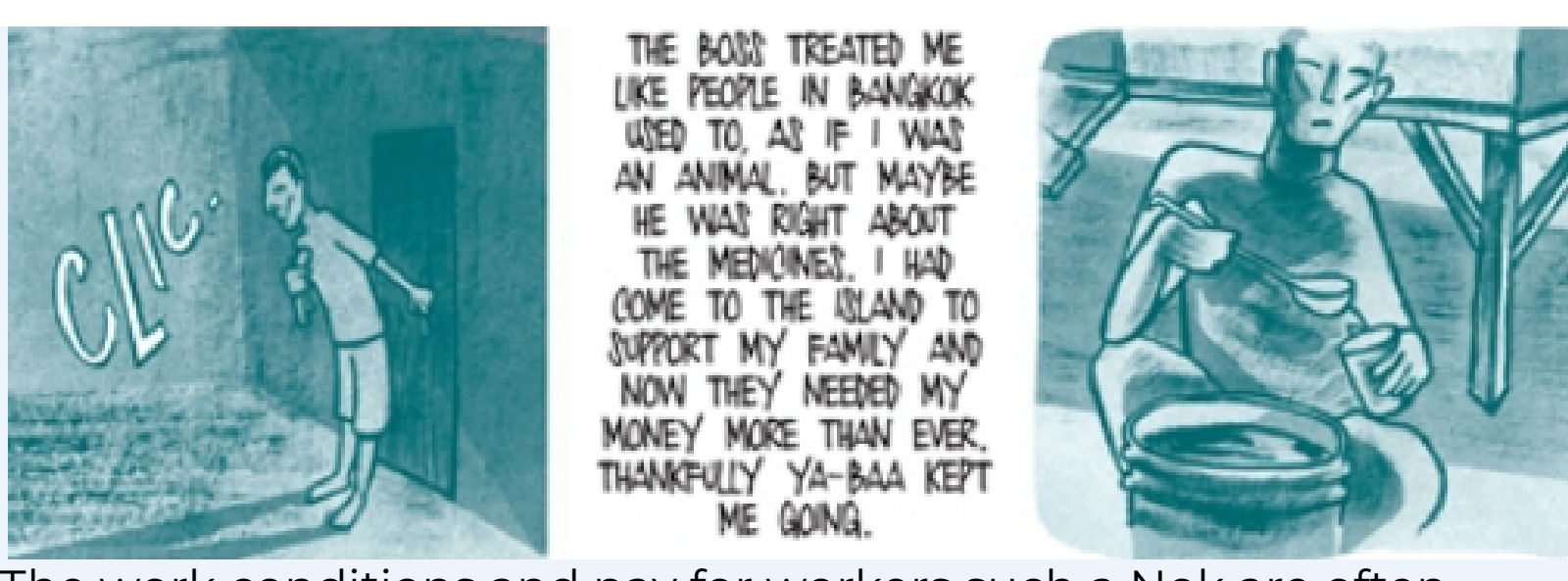


**A story of ethnoscape and the capitalist mode of production**



## Ethnoscape

As it refers to the flow of people across boundaries, Nok migrated to Bangkok for the reward of earning money for himself and his family. The construction of resorts is one of the larger structural forces that organize the tourism industry. Nok sold his labor to a privately held resort construction company that profited off of the demand of tourism.



The work conditions and pay for workers such as a Nok are often suboptimal. In general the relationships between tourist and the local people are unequal power relationships.

## Capitalist Mode of Production

Unlike the domestic and tributary modes of production, the workers in a capitalist mode of production are separated from the means of production. For example, Nok had no control over the shifts he worked and had no ownership of tourist resort projects that he helped construct. The owners of these resort projects kept wages low and profited off of the construction of the buildings.



THE ECONOMY WAS SLOWING DOWN, MY FATHER WAS SICK, AND MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GAI WAS GETTING TENSER AND TENSER. I PUT MY HEAD DOWN AND WORKED. AFTER A FEW MONTHS THE PAIN CAME BACK. THE WATER WAS NOT ENOUGH. LEK TOLD ME THAT I COULD GET YA-BAA PILLS. YOU CRUSH THEM, SPRINKLE THE DUST ON ALUMINUM FOIL, LIGHT IT UP, AND SMOKE IT WITH A MAKESHIFT PIPE. THE PAIN IMMEDIATELY DISAPPEARED, BUT SOON I COULDN'T EVEN GET OUT OF BED WITHOUT SMOKING.

## Political Economy

The state and social structures of Bangkok defined the terms in which Nok must live. His life was heavily influenced by the demand of his work. For example, his supervisor threatened his livelihood to prevent him from missing work to be with his sick father.

The King of Bangkok provides us with a graphically realistic depiction of the social, economic, and historical confines of the Thai working class.