

THE CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE PROGRAM

In 1994, nearly twenty years after the Khmer Rouge seized power in Cambodia, the U.S. Congress adopted the Cambodian Genocide Justice Act. The Act expresses the United States' commitment to the pursuit of justice for the victims of the genocide. As a result of this action, the Cambodian Genocide Program was created at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies to begin the work of documenting the atrocities committed in Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge regime headed by Pol Pot between 1975 and 1979.

CGP and the Yale Community

The Cambodian Genocide Program, based at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies, is a multi-disciplinary enterprise, drawing on many of Yale University's institutional strengths, including:

The Yale Center for International & Area Studies
The Council on Southeast Asia Studies
The Orville H. Schell, Jr., Center for International Human Rights, Yale Law School
Sterling Memorial Library
The Department of History
Yale University Press
The Institute for Biospheric Studies
The Center for Earth Observation

The CGP's partners include the Documentation Center of Cambodia and the School of Information, Library, and Archive Studies at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Intern/Volunteer Opportunities

The Director and staff of the CGP are very grateful for the hard work and dedication of our interns and volunteers. Without their assistance, the CGP would not have been able to record the accomplishments made in its first two years of work. For more information please contact the CGP.

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កម្ពុជា វិស័យ វិទ្យាសាស្ត្រ យុវជន អំពី
ការប្រឈម យុវជន យុវនារី ក្នុង កម្ពុជា



Ben Kiernan, 1980

Documentation
Research
Training
Preservation

Yale University



BACKGROUND

The Cambodian Genocide, in which about 1.7 million people lost their lives, stands as one of the worst human tragedies of the modern era. The Khmer Rouge revolution turned Cambodia into a grisly killing field, as the Pol Pot regime murdered, starved or tortured to death nearly one quarter of Cambodia's eight million inhabitants. In the first few days after the Khmer Rouge seized power in 1975, the new authorities evacuated all cities, closed hospitals, schools, monasteries, and factories, and abolished the use of money.



Cambodia's National Bank, dynamited by the Khmer Rouge after 1975

Extremist policies conspired with a diabolic disregard for human life to produce repression, misery and murder on a massive scale. For nearly four years the country was a prison-camp state.



Mobile Work Brigade

PURPOSE

The Cambodian Genocide Program (CGP) aims to:

- collect, catalogue, and study all extant information about this period in Cambodian history.
- make this information available to a truth commission, court or tribunal which asserts jurisdiction over Khmer Rouge crimes.
- generate a critical, analytical understanding of genocide which can be marshalled for the prevention of political violence against populations elsewhere in the world.



Youk Chhang, Executive Director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, with an archive of newly discovered documents from the Khmer Rouge "bureaucracy of death."

The Documentation Center of Cambodia, an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), was established in Phnom Penh by the CGP soon after its inception. The Center is staffed entirely by Cambodians. Its e-mail address is: dccam@pactok.peg.apc.org.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On January 27, 1997, the CGP launched a website containing the results of its first two years of intensive documentation work. The site can be viewed at the URL address:

<http://www.yale.edu/cgp>

The site contains the most comprehensive set of data ever assembled on Khmer Rouge violations of human rights. It includes records on a large amount of previously unknown material secured by the CGP staff in Phnom Penh.

The site comprises four databases:

- Bibliographic
- Biographic
- Geographic
- Photographic

These databases are augmented by a section that includes photographs, charts, and extensive translated excerpts from a secret diary of the Khmer Rouge Foreign Ministry, headed by Ieng Sary.

In addition, the CGP has commissioned new research and historiographical essays on the Khmer Rouge period, trained Cambodian graduate students at Yale, and conducted two intensive training sessions in Phnom Penh on international criminal law and humanitarian law.

With the generous assistance of the Henry Luce Foundation, the CGP is continuing to build on these achievements.