

# Delve Deeper into *Enemies of the People*

A film by Rob Lemkin & Thet Sambath

This resource list, compiled by Paul A. Bareño of the San Diego Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film *Enemies of the People*.

*The Khmer Rouge slaughtered nearly two million people in the late 1970s. Yet the Killing Fields of Cambodia remain largely unexplained. Until now. Enter Thet Sambath, an unassuming, yet cunning, investigative journalist who lost his family in the conflict and spends a decade gaining the trust of the men and women who perpetrated the massacres. From the foot soldiers who slit throats to Pol Pot's right-hand man, the notorious Brother Number Two, Sambath and co-director Rob Lemkin record shocking testimony never before seen or heard, in *Enemies of the People*.*

## ADULT NONFICTION

### Pol Pot, Nuon Chea & The Khmer Rouge Regime

**Chandler, David P. *Brother Number One: A Political Biography of Pol Pot*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1992.** Through interviews and a wide range of international sources, David Chandler provides an incisive look at the horrific and terrifying Khmer Rouge Regime through this biography of its most notorious leader, Pol Pot.

**Chandler, David P. *Voices from S-21: Terror and History in Pol Pot's Secret Prison*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.** S-21 was the Khmer Rouge secret prison housed at a former high school in Phnom Penh. Chandler studied the records discovered there and interviewed survivors of the camp.

**Chon, Gina and Sambath Thet. *Behind the Killing Fields: A Khmer Rouge Leader and One of His Victims*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010.** This book is based on Thet Sambath's interviews with Khmer Rouge leader, Nuon Chea, the major subject of Sambath's documentary film, *Enemies of the People*. Sambath's coauthor, Gina Chon, is a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*.

**Dith Pran, *Children of Cambodia's Killing Fields: Memoirs by Survivors*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997.** This book provides

eyewitness accounts of life in Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge Regime from 1975 to 1979, as told by survivors who were children at the time.

**Dunlop, Nic. *The Lost Executioner: A Journey to the Heart of the Killing Fields*. New York: Walker & Co., 2006.** A photojournalist long based in Southeast Asia, the author seeks to answer how Comrade Duch's life evolved to that of prison commandant of the Khmer Rouge's prison S-21 where an estimated 20,000 political prisoners were executed.

**Paterniti, Michael. "Never Forget"[Security Prison 21 in Cambodia]. *GQ - Gentlemen's Quarterly*, Aug. 2009, p. 122.** This article provides an historical overview of the Khmer Rouge, with a focus on the infamous Security Prison 21 in Phnom Penh and subsequent trial of Comrade Duch.

**Short, Philip. *Pol Pot: Anatomy of a Nightmare*. New York: Henry Holt, 2005.** This book is the result of Philip Short's investigations of the Pol Pot regime and the Khmer Rouge. Short has also authored *Mao: A Life* (2000).

### Roots of the Cambodia-Vietnam Conflict

**Chandler, David. *A History of Cambodia*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2007. (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)** This latest edition, revised and updated, includes a look at current challenges facing Cambodia. The author has been a scholar and specialist on Cambodian affairs for well over four decades.

**Corfield, Justin J. *The History of Cambodia*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood Press, 2009.** This book overviews the history of Cambodia, from the fall of Angkor and the French Protectorate period (1432-1863) to the present. More than half of the book is dedicated to the period from 1970 through the present.

**Tully, John A. *A Short History of Cambodia: From Empire to Survival*. Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2005.** This book is a great resource for students as well as general readers, and provides a further reading section to delve deeper into the history of Cambodia.

### Understanding Genocide in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Hinton, Alexander Laban. *Why Did They Kill?: Cambodia in the Shadow of Genocide*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.** Hinton's book focuses on the devastation under the Khmer Rouge that took place in Cambodia from April 1975 to January 1979. This book stands out as one of the first anthropological attempts to understand the origins of genocide.

**Jones, Adam. *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Routledge, 2010.** Not just a text for college students, this work is indispensable for anyone looking to understand the seemingly incomprehensible act of genocide.

**Kiernan, Ben. *Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination from Sparta to Darfur*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.** Ben Kiernan has been involved in the study of genocide and crimes against humanity for over thirty years and is professor of History and founding director of the Genocide Studies Program at Yale University. In this book, Kiernan delves into the historical records of genocide and mass outbreaks of violence, from the Armenian genocide, to the Holocaust, Stalin's mass murders, and the Cambodian and Rwandan genocides.

**Kiernan, Ben. *The Pol Pot Regime: Race, Power, and Genocide in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, 1975-79*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996.** "I first visited Cambodia in 1975," Ben Kiernan writes. "None of the Cambodians I knew then survived the next four years." In this book Kiernan uses interviews from both survivors and Khmer Rouge political prisoners to portray and analyze the horrific genocide in Cambodia in the 1970s.

**Valentino, Benjamin A. *Final Solutions: Mass Killing and Genocide in the Twentieth Century*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2004.** This book explores new theories behind the impetus for genocide. Benjamin Valentino is an Associate Professor of Government at Dartmouth College.



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## Cambodia Today: Remorse, Reconciliation & Forgiveness

**Brady, Brendan.** "History is Sensitive Subject at Schools in Former Khmer Rouge Stronghold." *Los Angeles Times*, 10 December 2010, p. A.9. The northwest border region of Cambodia remained under control of Khmer Rouge leaders and militias for two decades after 1979. As a result, teachers there today struggle to teach students about Khmer Rouge atrocities.

**Brinkley, Joel.** *Cambodia's Curse: the Modern History of a Troubled Land.* New York: PublicAffairs, 2011. The author won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting in Cambodia on the fall of the Khmer Rouge Regime. These are his observations and opinions of present-day Cambodia.

## About Enemies of the People

**Holden, Stephen.** "From the Killing Fields, On a Mission of Truth." *New York Times*, 30 July 2010, p. C.9. Stephen Holden, a film critic at the *New York Times*, offers insight into **Enemies of the People** in his review of the film.

**Rosa, Dustin.** "Cambodians' Own Hard Look; Two New Movies in the Nation's Inaugural Film Fest Deal with the Khmer Rouge Horror." *Los Angeles Times*, 28 November 2010, p. D.10. The inaugural Cambodia International Film Festival features two films that focus on the Khmer Rouge Regime of 1975-1979: the documentary, *Enemies of the People*, and *Lost Loves*, a story about the experiences of one family. Both directors are self-taught and were boys during the trauma of the Khmer Rouge.

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## ADULT FICTION

**Echlin, Kim.** *The Disappeared.* New York: Black Cat, 29 Dec. 2009. Anne Greves is a 16 year old student living in Montreal when she meets Serey, a Cambodian refugee, and falls deeply in love. When Serey disappears and is still missing after 11 years, Anne decides to go to Phom Penh to find him. In her search she confronts the horrors of the Khmer Rouge and the hardships of a country struggling to recover from genocide.

**Partridge, Larry.** *The Kindred Spirits: Dying to Live.* CreateSpace, 8 Jan. 2010. In the midst of the Khmer Rouge Regime, an American pilot flying a relief mission to the orphans in Cambodia chooses to deliberately crash his plane to avoid killing. The pilot then meets Apsara, a Buddhist guardian angel who offers him an unexpected gift for his sacrifice.

**Schneberg, Willa.** *Storytelling in Cambodia.* Corvallis, OR: CALYX Books, 1 Sept. 2006. A moving book of poetry that viscerally depicts life in Cambodia, from its ancient myths, to the killing fields, to the U.N.'s presence during Cambodia's first free elections

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## NON-FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

**Keat, Nawuth and Kendall, Martha.** *Alive in the Killing Fields: Surviving the Khmer Rouge Genocide.* National Geographic Children's Books, 13 Oct. 2009. This real-life memoir tells the story of a young Nawuth Keat, who survives the Khmer Rouge Regime against all odds, but loses his parents and younger sister. With his surviving relatives, Keat is captured and enslaved by Khmer Rouge soldiers. Keat and his family's strength and family bonds are inspiring themes in this story of survival amidst genocide.

**Lord, Michelle.** *A Song for Cambodia.* Lee & Low Books, 30 Mar. 2008. This is the incredible true story of Arn Chorn-Pond who was just nine-years old when the Khmer Rouge invaded his village in 1975 and took him to a children's work camp. Arn learns to survive by entertaining the guards with the khim, a traditional Cambodian musical instrument.

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## FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

**Smith, Icy.** *Half Spoon of Rice.* East West Discovery Press, 1 Jan. 2010. Based on accounts from survivors, nine-year old Nat narrates the story of he and his family's struggle for survival during the Cambodian Genocide. Nat is eventually separated from his family and forced to labor in the fields. Along the way he makes friends with a young girl names Malis and together they search for their families.

**Chai, May-Lee.** *Dragon Chica.* GemmaMedia, 27 Oct. 2010. This is a coming-of-age novel about 11-year-old Nea, who survived the Khmer Rouge with her mother, older sister, and younger siblings. Though they have made a home in Texas, the family is now leaving to go to Nebraska and work in the Chinese restaurant owned by Nea's auntie and uncle. Set in the 1980s, Nea, who is both Cambodian and Chinese must face the realities of poverty and racism.

**Crew, Linda.** *Children of the River.* Laurel Leaf, 1 Aug. 1991. After fleeing from the deadly Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, 17 year-old Sundra is now a refugee living in Oregon. This book follows her daily struggles as a teenager living in a foreign culture.

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## FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

**The Killing Fields.** DVD. Produced by David Puttnam. Directed by Roland Joffé. Warner Home Video, 2001, c1984. This 1984 film is an adaptation of a January 1980 *New York Times Magazine* article by *Times* reporter, Sydney Schanberg, who covered the Cambodian civil war from 1972 to 1975. Dith Pran was Schanberg's Cambodian assistant who was imprisoned and tortured by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 until his escape from Cambodia in 1979.

**Investigative Reports: Return to the Killing Fields.** DVD. Produced by Kurtis Productions and A&E Television Network, 26 Sept. 2000. Part of the A&E Investigative Report Series, Bill Kurtis delves into the Cambodian conflict from 1975-1979, examining its roots, causes, and who is responsible. Kurtis travels to modern-day Cambodia to retell the devastating crimes that took place during the genocide, with interviews from witnesses and survivors.

**Small Voices: The Stories of Cambodia's Children.** DVD. Produced and Directed by Heather E. Connell. Displaced Yankee Productions. 2008. This film follows five children growing up in the aftermath left by the Khmer Rouge Regime, even decades later. The film explores the reality of their day-to-day lives as they struggle to survive extreme poverty and work to achieve their dream of getting an education

