

# Introduction to Cambodian History, Politics, and Society

## Text/Materials:

Elizabeth Becker. (1998). *When the War Was Over: Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge Revolution*. New York: Public Affairs.

David Chandler. (2007). *A History of Cambodia* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boulder: Westview Press.

Khamboly Dy. (2007). *A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)*. Phenom Penh, Cambodia: Documentation Center of Cambodia.

Sabastian Strangio. (2014). *Hun Sen's Cambodia*. Thailand: Silkworm Books.

\*\* Instructors may also find the following useful:

The Documentation Center of Cambodia and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. (2009). *Teacher's Guidebook, The Teaching of "A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)." Phenom Penh, Cambodia: Documentation Center of Cambodia.*

## Description of Course:

This course provides an introduction to Cambodian history, politics, and society with a focus on post-WWII Cambodia. The course combines an examination of Cambodia's historical context and development as a nation with a thematic analysis of issues confronting contemporary Cambodia. Areas covered include the colonial period, Buddhism, the Khmer Rouge, the rise of Hun Sen, human rights, corruption, Cambodia's economic status, poverty, the Khmer Rouge trials, and the Cambodian Diaspora.

## Course Objectives:

Objective 1: Students will explain the historical development of Cambodian identity and nationhood, including the Angkorean period, the influence of external powers, and the French colonial period.

Objective 2: Students will explain Buddhism and the role it plays within Cambodian society.

Objective 3: Students will describe the development and policies of the Khmer Rouge.

Objective 4: Students will evaluate the policies of the Khmer Rouge and the impact of those policies on Cambodian society.

Objective 5: Students will recognize the influence of Hun Sen in shaping contemporary political and civil society life in Cambodia.

Objective 6: Students will evaluate various contemporary Cambodian issues, including human rights, poverty, corruption, foreign aid, the Khmer Rouge trials, and the Cambodian Diaspora.

## Course Schedule:

### Week 1: Overview and Introduction to Southeast Asia and Cambodia

- Benedict Anderson. (1998). *The Spectre of Comparisons: Nationalism, Southeast Asia, and the World*. "Introduction," pp. 1-20. New York: Verso.
- John Bowen. (2004). "The Development of Southeast Asian Studies in the United States." In, David Szanton (Editor), *The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines*, pp. 386-425. University of California Press.
- Robert Dayley. (2016). *Southeast Asia in the International Era* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition). Chapter 1, "Introduction." Boulder: Westview Press.
- Robert Dayley. (2016). *Southeast Asia in the International Era* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition). Chapter 5, "Cambodia." Boulder: Westview Press.

### Week 2: Cambodia in Historical Context

- David Chandler. (2007). *A History of Cambodia*. Chapter 1-6. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Website: [Culture of Cambodia](#). Countries and Their Cultures.

### Additional Resources:

- Websites:
  - [Cambodian Folk Stories from the Gatiloke](#)
  - [Angkor - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)

### Week 3: Buddhism

- Judy Ledgerwood. (2008). Buddhist Practice in Rural Kandal Province, 1960 and 2003. An essay in honor of May M. Ebihara In, Alexandra Kent & David Chandler (Editors), *People of Virtue: Reconfiguring Religion, Power and Moral Order in Cambodia Today*, pp. 147-168. Copenhagen, Denmark: NIAS Press
- Huston Smith. (2009). *The World's Religions*. Chapter 3, "Buddhism." New York: Harper Collins.
- Ashley Thompson. (2006). Buddhism in Cambodia: Rupture and Continuity. In, Stephen C. Berkwitz (Editor), *Buddhism in World Cultures: Comparative Perspectives*, pp. 129-168. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO,

## Week 4: Cambodia and External Powers

### Vietnam

- David Chandler. (2007). *A History of Cambodia*. Chapter 7. Boulder: Westview Press.

### French

- Elizabeth Becker. (1998). *When the War Was Over*. Chapters 1-2. New York: Public Affairs.
- David Chandler. (2007). *A History of Cambodia*. Chapters 8-9. Boulder: Westview Press.

## Week 5: The Sihanouk Years

- Elizabeth Becker. (1998). *When the War Was Over*. Chapters 3. New York: Public Affairs.
- Elizabeth Becker and Seth Mydans. (2012, October 14). Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian Leader Through Shifting Allegiances, Dies at 89. *New York Times*. Retrieved from [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/15/world/asia/norodom-sihanouk-cambodian-leader-through-shifting-allegiances-dies-at-89.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/15/world/asia/norodom-sihanouk-cambodian-leader-through-shifting-allegiances-dies-at-89.html?_r=0)
- David Chandler. (2007). *A History of Cambodia*. Chapters 10-11. Boulder: Westview Press.

## Week 6: The Rise of the Khmer Rouge

- Elizabeth Becker. (1998). *When the War Was Over*. Chapters 4. New York: Public Affairs.
- Khamboly Dy. (2007). *A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)*. Chapters 1-2. Phnom Penh, Cambodia: Documentation Center of Cambodia.
- Sebastian Strangio. (2014). *Hun Sen's Cambodia*. Chapter 1. Thailand: Silkworm Books.

## Week 7: The Khmer Rouge - Democratic Kampuchea - Policies

- Elizabeth Becker. (1998). *When the War Was Over*. Chapter 5. New York: Public Affairs.
- David Chandler. (2007). *A History of Cambodia*. Chapters 12. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Khamboly Dy. (2007). *A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)*. Chapters 3-6, 10. Phnom Penh, Cambodia: Documentation Center of Cambodia.

## Week 8: The Khmer Rouge – The Killing Fields

- Elizabeth Becker. (1998). *When the War Was Over*. Chapters 6-7. New York: Public Affairs.
- David Chandler. (1999). *Voices from S-21: Terror and History in Pol Pot's Secret Prison*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Khamboly Dy. (2007). *A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)*. Chapters 7-9. Phnom Penh, Cambodia: Documentation Center of Cambodia.

### Additional Resources:

#### ➤ Websites:

- [Cambodian Genocide Program – Yale University](#)
- [The Documentation Center of Cambodia](#)
- [National Cambodian Heritage Museum & Killing Fields Memorial](#)

#### ➤ Videos/Films:

- Lida Chan and Guillaume Suon (Directors). (2012). *Red Wedding*. Bophana Production. ([Trailer](#))
- Roland Joffé (Director). (1985). *The Killing Fields*. Enigma Productions.
- Rithy Panh (Director). (2003). [S-21: The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine](#). Arte France Cinéma
- Amanda Pike (Director). (2002). [Cambodia: Pol Pot's Shadow](#). PBS Frontline World.

#### • Supplemental Readings/Documents:

- Michelle Caswell. (2014). *Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence, Memory, and the Photographic Record in Cambodia*. Critical Human Rights. Madison, Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin Press.
- David Chandler. (2002). S21, the Wheel of History, and the Pathology of Terror in Democratic Kampuchea. In, Judy Ledgerwood (Editor), *Cambodia Emerges from the Past: Eight Essays*, pp. 16-37. Southeast Asia Publications, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University.
- Ledgerwood, Judy Ledgerwood. (1997). The Cambodian Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocidal Crimes: National Narrative. *Museum Anthropology* 21(1):82–98.
- Chum Mey with Documentation Center of Cambodia. (2012). *Survivor: The Triumph of an Ordinary Man in the Khmer Rouge Genocide*. Translated by Sim Sorya and Kimsroy Sokvisal. Phnom Penh, Cambodia: Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam).
- Vann Nath. (1998). *A Cambodian Prison Portrait. One Year in the Khmer Rouge's S-21*. Bangkok, Thailand: White Lotus Co. Ltd.
- Loung Ung. (2000). *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*. New York: Perennial.

- United Nations. (2014). [\*Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes\*](#). New York: United Nations.
- United Nations, Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner. (1948). [\*Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide\*](#)

#### Week 9: The Fall of Democratic Kampuchea and the Vietnam Invasion

- Elizabeth Becker. (1998). *When the War Was Over*. Chapters 10-12. New York: Public Affairs.
- David Chandler. (2007). *A History of Cambodia*. Chapters 13, pp. 277-286. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Khamboly Dy. (2007). *A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)*. Chapter 11. Phenom Penh, Cambodia: Documentation Center of Cambodia.
- Sabastian Strangio. (2014). *Hun Sen's Cambodia*. Chapter 2. Thailand: Silkworm Books.

#### Week 10: Cambodia's Transition

- Elizabeth Becker. (1998). *When the War Was Over*. Chapter 13. New York: Public Affairs.
- Alex J. Bellamy and Paul D. Williams. (2011). *Understanding Peacekeeping* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Malden, MA: Polity Press. Chapter 10, Assisting Transition. "UNTAC in Cambodia (1991-1993)," pp. 243-247.
- Sabastian Strangio. (2014). *Hun Sen's Cambodia*. Chapters 3-4. Thailand: Silkworm Books.
- Website: [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia \(UNTAC\)](#)

#### Week 11: The Rise of Hun Sen

- Sabastian Strangio. (2014). *Hun Sen's Cambodia*. Chapters 5-6. Thailand: Silkworm Books.

#### Week 12: Economics and Poverty

- Valérie Greffeuille, et. al. (2016). Persistent Inequalities in Child Undernutrition in Cambodia from 2000 until Today. *Nutrients*, 8(297).
- Regina Moench-Pfanner, et. al. (2016). The Economic Burden of Malnutrition in Pregnant Women and Children under 5 Years of Age in Cambodia. *Nutrients*, 8(292).

- Sabastian Strangio. (2014). *Hun Sen's Cambodia*. Chapters 7-8, 11. Thailand: Silkworm Books.

#### Additional Resources:

- Websites:
  - [Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations - Cambodia](#)
  - [Human Development Index - Cambodia](#)
  - [National Institute of Statistics - Cambodia](#)
  - [Open Development - Cambodia](#)
  - [World Bank - Cambodia](#)
  - [UN Data - Cambodia](#)
- Supplemental Readings/Documents:
  - Asian Development Bank. (2014). [Cambodia: Country Poverty Analysis 2014](#). Asian Development Bank. Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Asian Development Bank.

#### Week 13: Natural Resources and Corruption

- Sabastian Strangio. (2014). *Hun Sen's Cambodia*. Chapters 9. Thailand: Silkworm Books.
- Global Witness. (2009). [Country for Sale: How Cambodia's Elite has Captured the Country's Extractive Industries](#). London: Global Witness.
- Global Witness. (2016). [Hostile Takeover: The Corporate Empire of Cambodia's Ruling Family](#). London: Global Witness. Retrieved from

#### Week 14: Cambodia and Human Rights

- Annuska Derks. (2008). *Khmer Women on the Move: Exploring Work and Life in Urban Cambodia*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press. Chapter 4, Factory Work and Chapter 5, Sex Work.
- Human Right Watch. (2016). *World Report 2016, Cambodia*. New York: Seven Stories Press.
- Tim Hume, Lisa Cohen, and Mira Sorvino. (213). [The Women Who Sold their Daughters into Sex Slavery](#). *Cable News Network - CNN*.
- Judy Ledgerwood and Kheang Un. (2003). Global Concepts and Local Meaning: Human Rights and Buddhism in Cambodia. *Journal of Human Rights*, 2(4): 531-549.

- Sabastian Strangio. (2014). *Hun Sen's Cambodia*. Chapters 10. Thailand: Silkworm Books.
- U.S. Department of State. (2015). [Cambodia](#). *2015 Trafficking in Persons Report*. U.S. Department of State.
- Chris Walker and Morgan Hartley. (2013). [Cambodia's Orphan-Industrial Complex](#). *The Atlantic*.

#### Additional Resources:

- Websites:
  - [Amnesty International - Cambodia](#)
  - [ECPAT Cambodia, End Child Prostitution, Abuse and Trafficking in Cambodia](#)
  - [Friends International](#)
  - [Human Rights Watch - Cambodia](#)
  - [U.S. State Department, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015, Cambodia](#)

#### Week 15: Minority and Ethnic Groups

- Tallyn Gray. (2015). Re-imagining the Community? Cambodian Cham Muslims – Experience, identity, Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. *South East Asia Research*, 23(1): 101–119.

#### Indigenous Populations

- Ian G. Baird. (2013). 'Indigenous Peoples' and Land: Comparing Communal Land Titling and its Implications in Cambodia and Laos. *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, 54(3): 269–281.
- Ian G. Baird. (). The Construction of 'Indigenous Peoples' in Cambodia. In, Leong Yew (Editor), *Alterities in Asia: Reflections on Identity and Regionalism*, pp. 155-176. New York: Routledge.

#### Cham

- Ysa Osma. (2006). *The Cham Rebellion: Survivors' Stories from the Villages*. Cambodia: Documentation Center of Cambodia.

#### Chinese

- Sambath Chan. (2005). *The Chinese Minority in Cambodia: Identity Construction and Contestation*. MA Thesis. Concordia University, Montreal, Canada.

- Satoru Kobayashi. (2010). *The Reconfiguration of Cambodian Rural Social Structure: With Special Focus on the People Called Chen and Khmae*. Kyoto Working Papers on Area Studies: G-COE Series.

Week 16: The Lasting Impact of Democratic Kampuchea

### **The Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), Khmer Rouge Trials**

- Susan E. Cook. (2002). Documenting Genocide: Lessons from Cambodia for Rwanda. In, Judy Ledgerwood (Editor), *Cambodia Emerges from the Past: Eight Essays*, pp. 224-237. Southeast Asia Publications, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University.
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). (n.d.). [\*An Introduction to the Khmer Rouge Trials\*](#) (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Phnom Penh: Public Affairs Section, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.
- Steve Heder. (2002). Hun Sen and Genocide Trials in Cambodia: International Impacts, Impunity, and Justice. In, Judy Ledgerwood (Editor), *Cambodia Emerges from the Past: Eight Essays*, pp. 176-223. Southeast Asia Publications, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University.
- Eric Stover, Mychelle Balthazard and K. Alexa Koenig. (2011). Confronting Duch: Civil Party Participation in Case 001 at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. *International Review of the Red Cross*, 93(882): 503-546.
- Sabastian Strangio. (2014). *Hun Sen's Cambodia*. Chapters 12. Thailand: Silkworm Books.
- Kheang Un and Judy Ledgerwood. (2010). [\*Is the Trial of 'Duch' a Catalyst for Change in Cambodia's Courts?\*](#) *Asia Pacific*, 95: 1-12.

Additional Resources:

➤ Websites:

- [Cambodia Tribunal Monitor](#)
- [Civil Parties Before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia](#)
- [Documentation Center of Cambodia](#)
- [Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia \(ECCC\)](#)
- [United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials](#)

➤ Videos/Films:

- Annie Goldson and Peter Gilbert (Directors). (2011). *Brother Number One*. BNO Productions.
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. (2013). [A Brief Introduction to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia](#). YouTube.



- Supplemental Readings/Documents:
  - Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). (n.d.). [An Introduction to the Khmer Rouge Trials](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.
  - Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). (n.d.). [Verdict Leaflet: The Trial Chamber Verdict Case 001 Kaing Guek Eav Alias Duch](#). Phnom Penh: Public Affairs Section, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.
  - Stephen Heder with Brian D. Tittmore. (2001). *Seven Candidates for Prosecution: Accountability for the Crimes of the Khmer Rouge*. War Crimes Research Office, Washington College of Law, American University and Coalition for International Justice.
  - Duncan McCargo. (2011). [Politics by Other Means? The Virtual Trials of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal](#). *International Affairs*, 8(3): 613-627.

### The Cambodian Diaspora

- Susan Needham & Karen Quintiliani. (2007). Cambodians in Long Beach, California: The Making of a Community. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 5(1): 29-53.
- Leakhena Nou. (2007). Exploring the Psychosocial Adjustment of Khmer Refugees in Massachusetts from an Insider's Perspective. In, Tuyet-Lan Pho, Jeffrey N. Gerson, Sylvia Cowan (Editors), *Southeast Asian Refugees and Immigrants in the Mill City: Changing Families, Communities, Institutions – Thirty Years Afterward*, pp. 173-191. Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England.
- Pete Pin. (2012). Displaced: The Cambodian Diaspora. *Time*, Retrieved from <http://time.com/3785818/displaced-the-cambodian-diaspora/>
- Khatharya Um. (2006). Refractions of Home: Exile, Memory and Diasporic Longing. In, Leakthina Chau-Pech Ollier and Tim Winter (Editor), *Expressions of Cambodia: The Politics of Tradition, Identity and Change*. New York: Routledge.
- Khatharya Um. (2015). Crossing Borders: Citizenship, Identity and Transnational Activism in the Cambodian Diaspora. In, Khatharya Um and Sofia Gaspar (Editors), *Southeast Asian Migration: People On the Move in Search of Work, Refuge and Belonging*. Chicago: Sussex Academic Press.

### Additional Resources:

- Websites:
  - [Cambodian Association of Illinois](#)
  - [Cambodian Community History & Archive Project \(CamCHAP\)](#)
  - [National Cambodian Heritage Museum & Killing Fields Memorial](#)
  - [Pete Pin](#)