

The History of Cambodia from 1st Century to 20th Century

**[8] Khmer is a good sandwich silver plate between
Siamese and Yuonese from 1432 to 1900**

SLK

05/02/2009

Thais and Vietnamese always called Khmer, “barbarians and uncivilized.” But why are Khmer lands getting smaller and smaller so far so worse? As King Norodom Sihanouk clearly told to his Khmer children on TVK between 1993 and 1994 in a clear demonstration: “My children, you are fighting among yourselves. Look, our land is getting closer and closer to Phnom Penh now from the West (Thais) and East (Vietnamese).” He disappointedly continued his statement. “You said, you follow your King all the ways, but when you go home, you go on your own instead!”

[8] Khmer is a good sandwich silver plate between Siamese and Yuonese from 1432 to 1900

THE ANGKOR Empire fell apart after its last great ruler, Jayavarman VII died. For the next five centuries, Cambodia was alternately controlled by Siam and Vietnam.

The country gained stability when it became part of the French colony of Indochina in 1884. France protected Cambodia from more invasions by Siam and Vietnam.¹

“Although it is fruitful to study Cambodian political history from a Cambodian perspective, the country's location, topography, and demographic weakness have meant that its fate for over two hundred years has been entangled with Thailand and Vietnam.”²

Siam, Viet, and Loa want a piece of Cambodia!

Cambodia has become a dinosaur! Why is this happening over and over again and why the stupid Cambodian leaders don't do anything about it!

Posted By: APSARAMAN apsaramanoceanone@yahoo.com Date: Sunday, 6 March 2005, at 6:47 p.m.³

There is a tradition Cambodian expression: “Between the tiger and crocodile.” Its basic meaning is obvious-to be a difficult position. But the Cambodia saying has a geographic and historical meaning, too. In this sense, it describes the position that the Cambodian people felt they have occupied for centuries, sandwiched between two larger, more powerful nations, Thailand and Vietnam. A long history of conflict with the tiger on the west and the crocodile on the east has given the Cambodians as profound fear of being overrun of being abolished as a people.⁴

The memory of this period had remained deeply impressed in Cambodian consciousness, for while the Vietnamese exercised control over the kingdom, ruling for a time through a puppet queen, they sought to transform the country into an approximation of their own. The prerogatives of the royal family were attacked, an attempt was made to substitute the Vietnamese style of provincial administration for the existing Cambodian structure, and Cambodian officials were ordered to dress in the same manner as Vietnamese mandarins. At the same time, large numbers of Cambodian peasants were forced into corvee labor as the Vietnamese developed the canal and drainage system in their southern provinces. Finally, as the Vietnamese exercised control over

¹ Dora Yip, Dayaneeta De Silva: Welcome to Cambodia (2001) P.11

² <http://www.mekong.net/cambodia/media1.htm>

³ <http://camweb.org/bbs/politics/index.cgi?read=58162>.

⁴ Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr: Broken Empire, Pol Pot (1991) P.23

Cambodia they acted against Buddhist, the national religion that commanded the respect of prince and peasants alike. By the desecrating pagodas and persecuting monks, the Vietnamese struck at a central element of Cambodia identity.

The harshness of the regime the Vietnamese imposed on Cambodia sparked a major rebellion in 1840, which for a time seemed likely to threaten Vietnam's control. But although the force of the rebellion faded the following year, renewed Thai interest in the affairs of its eastern neighbors spelt an end to the exclusive influence that the Vietnamese court at Hue had been able to exercise over Cambodian affairs. Between 1841 and 1848, Thailand gradually asserted its influence over Cambodia, backing the accession to the throne of its chosen nominee, King Ang Doung. He was the last Cambodian to rule free of direct foreign control until 1953. Largely in response to French pressure, and still concerned not to anger the Thai king, Norodom grudgingly signed a protectorate treaty with France in August 1863. Under the treaty's terms, Norodom ceded control of his country's foreign relations to France in return for French protection of Cambodia, recognition of the king's sovereignty, and a pledge to assist him to maintain order within the kingdom. After one abortive attempt to disengage from the treaty, Norodom accepted its terms and was finally crowned king of Cambodia in June 1864. He was Sihanouk's great grandfather, a man whom the prince has idealized throughout his life as a great Cambodian patriot.⁵

Thais and Vietnamese always called Khmer, "barbarians and uncivilized." But why are Khmer lands getting smaller and smaller so far so worse? As King Norodom Sihanouk clearly told to his Khmer children on TVK between 1993 and 1994 in a clear demonstration: "My children, you are fighting among yourselves. Look, our land is getting closer and closer to Phnom Penh now from the West (Thais) and East (Vietnamese)." He disappointedly continued his statement. "You said, you follow your King all the ways, but when you go home, you go on your own instead!"

Y Viets R considered thieves, gamblers, traitors, hoo

Posted By: VoulezVouCouchezAvecMoi Hahahahaha

Date: Friday, 15 April 2005, at 8:49 p.m. POLITICS FORUM

According to the historical dark ages of Cambodia, the historians interpreted the domination of Vietnam over Cambodia to mean Vietnam as "mother" and Cambodia as Vietnam's "child". Since the Vietnamese considered Cambodians as just "children", the Viets had every intention to change or challenge the Cambodian values or way of life. As a result, the Vietnamese viewed the Khmer people as barbarians to be civilized through exposure to Vietnamese culture, and they regarded the fertile Khmer lands as legitimate sites for colonization by settlers from Vietnam.⁶

(Yuon) Lieutenant-General Phan Thach Van also calls Khmers "Ill-natured barbarians, ill-natured blood, Khmers have traits of stupidity, idiot, illogic. (Everything Yuons said was all but

⁵ Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) Pp.14-15

⁶ <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/...d>

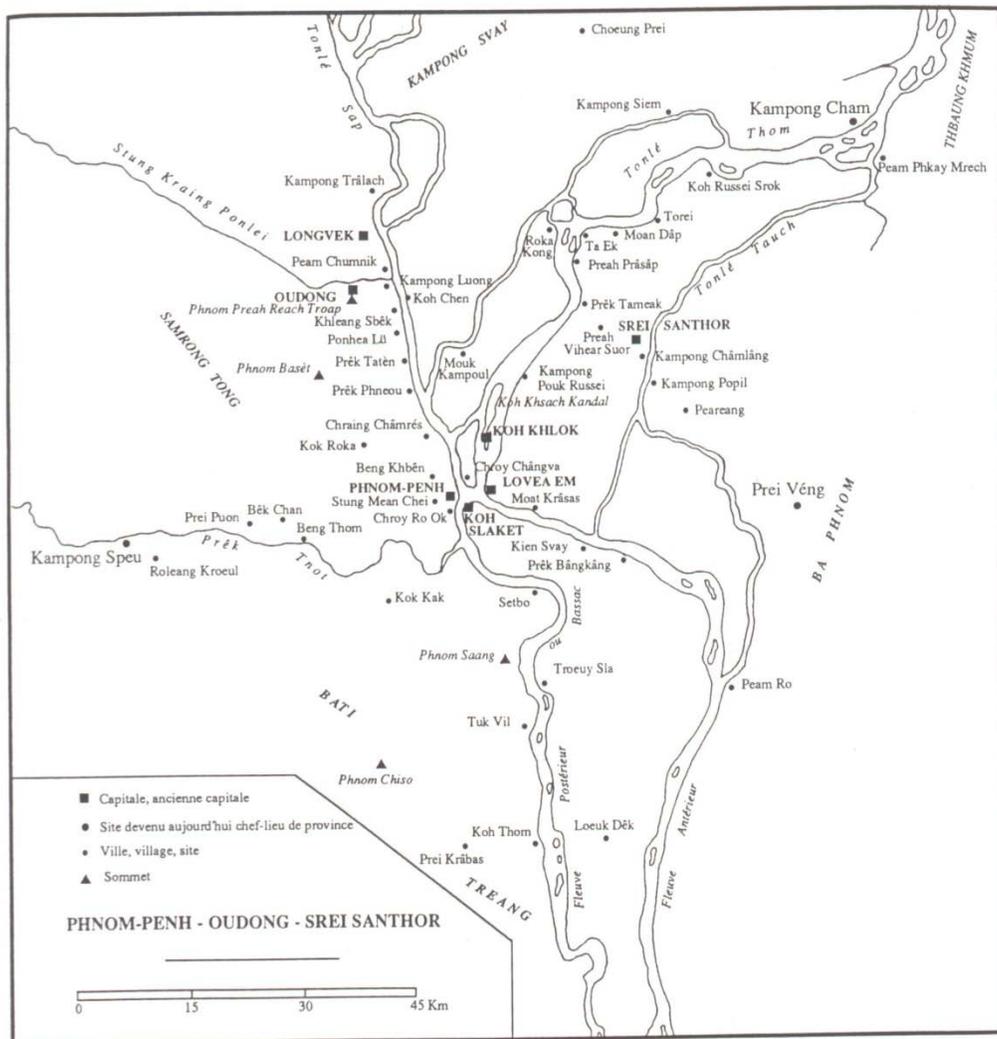
lying, everything Yuons have are nearly all the lootings. In fact, in front of the Farangse/Frenchmen, Yuon tried to be good in order to make the Frenchmen/Farangse hate Khmers but in secret places, Yuon walk as robbers, Yuon women became prostitutes are they all have ill-natured blood so! (See more about French + Japanese + Siamese + Yuonese= Quadruple Murderous Imperialists and 8-Yuon criminals all over the world.)⁷

From the Dark period to the Darkest Period, which all Cambodians were kept in a tiny pond of a frog as Khmer like to say, and from the vast land to have effaced on the World Map to become a very delicious sandwich on a silver plate being fiercely gulped up between the fugitives of Mongols, Siamese in the West, and the prisoners of Mongols, Yuonese in the East.

- 1432, Ponhea Yat, or Gam Yat (1432-?) comes to the Khmer throne. The King begins his reign at Angkor.
- 1433, King Ponhea Yat abandons Angkor and moves his court to Basan. [14]
- 1434, The Khmer royal court (capital) move from Basan to Phnom Penh. According to Pongsa Voda (Chronicle) Khmer, "...in 1434, Tuesday, the ninth day of the waning moon, in the month of Pisakh in the year of the Tiger, 6th in the decade, the King left Basan, where he had resided for only one year, and went by boat to Phnom Daun Penh, accompanied by his mandarins and all his household."
- 1444, Siamese captured Angkor
- 1471, Emperor Le Thanh-tong of Dai Viet annexes the northern provinces of Champa (today Vietnam).
- 1473, Siamese invaded and sacked the capital
- 1505, Khmer Royal court moves to Udong.
- 1516, Borom Reachea II or Chau Ponhea Chan (r. 1516 - 1566) Khmer king.
- 1528, Khmer Royal court moves to Longvek. [22]
- 1556, a Portuguese missionary, Gaspar de Cruze, comes to Longvek in an attempt to convert Cambodians to Christianity. He leaves a year later disappointedly unable to convert any Cambodians, whom he blames for believing in superstitions and loyalty to Buddhism. [29]
- 1567, Borom Reachea III (r. 1567 - 1575), Khmer king
- 1575, Borom Reachea IV or Sattha (1575 - c. 1594), Khmer king.
- 1580, Portugal and Spain send reinforcements of Spanish soldiers of fortune and Dominicans from Manila, the Philippines, to protect Portuguese in Cambodia. Many Portuguese traders and missionaries are in the Khmer court of Longvek. [14]
- 1583, Pongsa Voda accounts a Siamese invasion with 100,000 men, 800 elephants, and 15,000 horses; it also details the abduction of the King's chief wife, and the flight of the King's elderly aunt. The Siamese account of the same incidence describes the victorious Siamese king bathing his feet in the blood of the fallen Khmer king before departing with 50,000 prisoners. [22]
- 1585, Diego Beloso, a Portuguese adventurer, comes to Longvek. He later married a relative of the King. [30]
- 1587, Siamese unsuccessfully besieges Khmer's capital, Longvek.

⁷ Sot Polin: Angkor Borei, The Voice of Khmer overseas

- 1593, a Spaniard adventurer Blaz Ruiz de Hernan Gonzales arrives in Longvek. He is one of a band of Portuguese and Spaniard traders and adventurers come to Cambodia. [14]
- 1594, Reama 1st (1594 – 1596), Khmer king; Thai sacks Longvaek.
- 1595, Diego Beloso manages to convince Dasmarias, the Governor of the Philippines, to send military expedition to protect the King Satha's throne and at the same time establish de facto Spanish rule over the Khmer court. Three ships with 130 soldiers are sent. [14] [30]
- 1596, Ream 2nd or Chau Ponhea Nou (1596 – 1597), Khmer king. The Hispano-Portuguese expedition sent from the Philippines arrives in Phnom Penh, but the King had already fled the court at Srei Santhor and Reama Chung Prei is installed. Beloso and Ruiz, who comes with the expedition, along with 38 men go to Srei Santhor and attack the palace at night. They kill King Reama and fight their way back to their ships at Phnom Penh.



* <http://angkor1431.tripod.com/index/id70.html>

- April 12, 1596, Portuguese Beloso and Spaniard Ruiz's men attack and ruthlessly kill Chinese traders in Phnom Penh. They also burnt houses in the Chinese quarter of Phnom Penh. [14]
- May 1596, Veloso, Ruiz and some 40 of their men make a surprise attack on the Khmer court at Srei Santhor, killing the King, burning his palace and blowing up a powder magazine. They then returned to their ships in Phnom Penh and fled. [14]
- 1597, Borom Reachea V (r. 1597 – 1599), Khmer king second reign.
- May 1597, Veloso and Ruiz, who fled Cambodia after killing a Khmer King the previous year, reappears with the son of King Sattha Chau Ponhea Ton (Borom Reachea II), who takes the throne at Srei Santhor. [14]
- 1599, Borom Reachea VI (1599 – 1600), Khmer king. Spaniard and Malays in Phnom Penh clashed, in which Veloso and Ruiz are killed. The Portuguese and Spaniard adventurers are at Srei Santhor for discussion with the King as violent incident occurred in Phnom Penh between Spaniards and Malays. Against the King's advice for them to hide and wait for the violence to calm down, the two adventurers rush to Phnom Penh to help their compatriots and are both killed. [14]
- 1600, Kev Fa 1st or Chau Ponhea Nhom (1600 – 1602), Khmer king.
- 1602, Borom Reachea VII or Srei Soriyoppor (r. 1602 – 1619), Khmer king.
- July 1612, Peter Floris arrives in Phnom Penh through the Mekong; he appears to be the first British to reach Phnom Penh. [14]
- 1619, Chey Chettha II (r. 1618 – 1627), Khmer king.
- 1620, a new palace is built at Udong. [22]
- Dec. 1620, a Dutch under-merchant ship arrives in Phnom Penh.
- 1627, Borom Reachea (Outei)? [Opphayoreach], Khmer king.
- Srei Thoamareachea 1st or Chau Ponhea To (1627 – 1632), Khmer king.
- 1632, Ang Tong Reachea or Chau Ponhea Nou (1632 – 1640), Khmer king.
- 1637, the Dutch East Indies Company establishes its first factory in Cambodia. [14]
- 1640, Botum Reachea 1st or Ang Non (1640 – 1642), Khmer king.
- 1642, Reameathipadei 1st or Chau Ponhea Chan (1642 – 1658) ascended the Khmer throne. King Ponhea Chan, in response to the disorder of traders, issues a decree that all Khmer or foreign ships arriving from other countries would not be permitted to moor at Phnom Penh unless their masts and helms are removed. [14]
- Sept. 1643, Manager of the Dutch factory Pierre de Regemortes, following disturbances, presents himself at the Udong Court to protest against the violence and damage suffered by his company. Irritated by his insolence, the Royal Guard kills him and his followers. At the same time, the trading post is pillaged, 36 of the company's men are killed and some 50 others are thrown into prison. [14]
- March 23, 1644. To re-establish the Company's prestige in Cambodia, the Council of the Indies decides to mount a reprisal expedition by dispatching a squadron of ships comprising the Kiewit, the Dolphin, the Wakende Boei and the Noorster, carrying 432 well-armed men, under the command of Admiral Hendrik Harouze and Vice-Admiral Simon Jacobsz Domkins.
- June 3, 1644, three of the four ships sent by the Indies Company arrives in Phnom Penh;
- July 22, 1644, Dutch ship 'the Noorster' is attacked by the Khmer Royal ships, which include the ships Rijswijk and Oranjeboom captured from the Dutch the previous year. [14]

- 1646, The King agrees to hand back the Dutch prisoners who were captured three years earlier, as well as the seized merchandise. [14]
- 1651, a British merchant comes to Phnom Penh and [Longvek](#) in August to set up a factory. In his diary, he described the rivers at Phnom Penh: “Three big rivers traverse the country, but all three converge at the site of the principal town. This town is called Pantaprick by the people of the country and Camboja by the Malays and Christians. The three rivers are the Bassac, the Kerringheze and the Sending. The Bassac lies to the west, the Kerringheze to the east, and the Sending between the two. The distance from the mouth of the river to the town of Camboja is about 190 miles. If a ship wishes to mount the river in Jan. Feb. March or April and is aided by a favorable wind and the tide, it can reach Camboja in five days. During the months of May and June the voyage would take 10 to 12 days. In Aug. and Sept. the current is so swift and the winds so unfavourable that the journey can take more than 52 days.” [14]
- 1653, Bastian de Bouillon, according to the English documents, appears to be the first Frenchman to arrive in Cambodia. He arrives from Batavia with two junks laden with cloth worth 30,000 reals. [14]
- 1655, The King and East Indies Company reach an agreement under which Khmer would pay restitution for the damage to the Company’s trading post; however, the Dutch have to forego the trade monopoly in Cambodia. [14]
- 1656, The British hands over their trading post to the Dutch. Soon after the British set up a trading post in Cambodia, the Dutch make relentless war on the British trading competitors, who later withdrew completely from Cambodia. [14]
- 1659, Borom Reachea VIII or Ang So (1659 – 1672), Khmer king. Dutch trading post in Phnom Penh is sacked by Anamneses.
- 1662, The Society of Foreign Missionary of Paris (Societe des Missions Etrangeres de Paris) is set up in the Siamese capital. A few years later it tries to extend its religious activities to Cambodia but encounters the opposition of the Spanish Dominicans, who are determined to defend their fief. [14]
- 1664, Reameathipadei? (Outei Sorivong Ang Tan) [Opphayoreach] (1664 – 1674), Khmer king.
- 1665, French Father Louis Chevreul establishes himself in the Svay Rieng area. He later moves to Phnom Penh and finally to Udong. However, discouraged by Khmer indifference and the hostility of the Hispano-Portuguese, the priest abandoned his evangelist effort and leave Cambodia. [14]
- July 9, 1667, the yacht Schelvisch arrives at the trading post in Phnom Penh to evacuate Dutch traders, but that night the Chinese forestall the Dutch and invade their establishment, murdering the factor, Pierre Ketting, along with some of his men and seize the money and goods before withdrawing. [14]
- July 12, 1667, The Schelvisch left Phnom Penh, marking the end of the East Indies Company in Cambodia. [14]
- 1672, Botum Reachea II or Srei Chei Chet (1672 – 1673), Khmer king.
- 1673, Kev Fa II or Ang Chi (1673 – 1677), Khmer king.
- 1674, Botum Reachea? (Ang Non) [Opphayoreach] (1674 – 1691), Khmer king.
- 1677, Chei Chettha III or Ang So (1677 – 1695), Khmer king first reign.
- 1695, Reameathipadei II or Ang Yang (1695 – 1696), Khmer king.
- 1696, Chei Chettha III or Ang So (1696 – 1700), Khmer king second reign.

Year 1700

- Kev Fa III or Ang Im (1700 – 1701), Khmer king first reign.
- 1701, Chei Chettha III or Ang So (1701 – 1702), Khmer king third reign.
- 1702, Srei Thoamareachea II (1702 – 1704), Khmer king first reign.
- 1704, Chei Chettha III or Ang So (1704 – 1707), Khmer king fourth reign.
- 1707, Srei Thoamareachea II (1707 – 1714), Khmer king second reign.
- 1714, Kev Fa III or Ang Im (1714 – 1722), Khmer king second reign.
- 1772, Thai destroys Phnom Penh.
- 1779, Ang Eng (r. 1779 - 1796) succeeds to the Khmer throne. He is crowned in Bangkok in 1794 and sent into Cambodia with the support of Siamese army.
- 1782, Rama I (1782 - 1809) found a new Siamese kingdom with its capital at Bangkok. He brings to an end the long conflict with Burma in 1793, re-establishing control throughout the country, and through division with Annam, the King secures a large part of Khmer territory.
- 1794, Ang Eng is crowned king.
- 1796, King Ang Eng died.
- 1802, Gia Long (Nguyen Anh / 1802 - 1820), emperor of Annam (Vietnam).
- 1806, Ang Chan II (r. 1806 - 1834) comes to the Khmer throne. After King Ang Eng died in 1796, but Siam which held many important members of the Khmer royal family in Bangkok, did not approve the elevation of any princes to ascend the throne immediately.
- 1811, King Ang Chan asks Vietnam for help in protecting his throne - especially from one of his brothers who had fled the court and seemed bent on rebellion.
- 1820, Khmer revolt. Resentment with the Vietnamizing process, harsh rule and forced labor leads to a Khmer revolt against the Vietnamese occupiers. The rebels, lead by a monk named Kai, slaughter Vietnamese residents in eastern Cambodia before being subdued by superior forces sent by the Vietnamese governor in the south.
- 1833, Thai attacks Cambodia and Vietnam. Rama III, believing that the time come to restore the Khmer kingdom and to punish the insolence of Vietnam - who he blamed of removing of Khmer court from his control - sent a large army down the southern shores of the Tonle Sap and occupies Phnom Penh. King Ang Chan had been taken off beforehand into Vietnam. The Siamese retreated a few months later after burning down Phnom Penh and driving out its population.
- 1834, King Ang Chan dies; Princess Ang Mey ascends the Khmer throne. At the time of the King's death, the Khmer court was still controlled by the Vietnamese who was able to prevent the succession from passing to any of the dead king's brothers, who were living in Bangkok, Siam. King Ang Chan had left no sons of his own. Under Vietnamese pressure, the Khmer Court chose princess Ang Mey as a successor. [6]
- 1835, Prince Norodom is born.
- 1840, Prince Sisowath is born. Khmer revolt. The uprising broke out in late
- 1830s, but a larger one in 1840 broke out soon after the Vietnamese decided to install a Vietnamese taxation system and to administer Cambodia's provinces directly, instead of using local officials. Furthermore, the Vietnamese imprisoned the Khmer queen whom they thought uncooperative. The disappearance of their queen, however ineffectual she had been, enraged and terrified many Khmer provincial officials who led their followers into rebellion. Thieu Tri (1840 - 1847), emperor of Annam/Vietnam.

- 1841, Prince Si Votha is born. He is son of King Ang Duong; half-brother of Prince Norodom and Prince Sisowath. Thai invades Cambodia. For the next five years, Cambodia is a battlefield, with the advantage seesawing between the Thai and the Vietnamese, with the casualties largely Khmer.
- 1847, Prince Ang Duong is crowned king. Tu Duc (1847 - 1883), emperor of Annam/Vietnam.
- 1848, Thai and Vietnamese conclude peace. The two enemies made an uneasy peace between themselves, which left most of Cambodia a Thai protectorate. In the 1840s Cambodia almost disappeared as the Thai took charge of much of the country west of the Mekong and the Vietnamese controlled the Cambodian royal family, the capital region, and the eastern part of the country. [\[Map of Asia\]](#) The Siamese General P'raya Bodin, who launched a long campaign against the Vietnamese in Cambodia which brought Prince Ang Doung to the Khmer throne, dies. In honoring the General, King Ang Doung orders his statue to be erected in the Khmer royal court.
- 1851, an inscription is erected to record King Ang Doung's return to Cambodia and the defeat of the Vietnamese. Rama IV (1851 - 1868), Siamese king.
- 1856, King Ang Duong writes a letter to the French emperor, Napoleon III, urging him not to accept the Khmer territories taken by the Vietnamese. King Ang Duong asks Siamese King to grant his son, Prince Norodom, the title of Obbareach, which ensures the prince, will succeed him.
- 1858, Chams and Malays living in the southeast of the Khmer Kingdom rebel against King Ang Duong.
- Aug. 31, 1858, French expedition forces lands in Tourane.
- Feb. 17, 1859, King Ang Duong sends Khmer troops into Cochin China.
- Oct. 19, 1860, King Ang Duong dies. Prince Norodom, the King's eldest son, is unable to take the throne at the time because of the Chams' rebellion. Khmer troops withdraw from Cochin China?
- 1860, Henri Mouhot, a French naturalist who visited Siam, Cambodia, and Laos between 1858 and 1861, visits Angkor, which dazzled him, "At the sight of this temple, one feels one's spirit crushed, one's imagination surpassed. One looks, one admires, and, seized with respect, one is silent. For where are the words to praise a work of art that may not have its equal anywhere on the globe? What genius this Michelangelo of the East had, that he was capable of conceiving such a work".
- 1861, Prince Norodom abandons the capital at Udong for the comparative safety of Battambang.
- Feb. 7, 1861, The French navy attacks Saigon.
- 1862, Prince Norodom flees to Bangkok.
- June 5, 1862, Saigon treaty, in which France takes control of all three provinces of Cochin China.
- 1863, Aug. 11, 1863, THE PROTECTORATE TREATY is concluded between the French and Prince Norodom. The treaty requires Khmer sovereign to hand over to France the conduct of his country's foreign relations and prohibits the King from receiving any foreign consuls within his kingdom without French authorization. In return, France pledges itself to give "Protection" to the kingdom, to recognize the sovereignty of the King, and assist in maintaining internal order as well as protecting the country against external attack?

- 1863, Adm. Pierre de La Grandiere, governor of Cochinchina (1863 - 1868).
- June 3, 1864, Prince Norodom is crowned king at Udong.
- 1865, Prince Sisowath, who resides in Bangkok, is in Saigon where he enters into negotiation with French Admiral de la Grandiere with the aim of returning to Udong. King Norodom moves the Royal Court (Capital) from [Udong to Phnom Penh](#). (NK)
- 1866, a naval officer, Doudart de Lagree, begins his mission to study the navigability of the Mekong River 1866-1868.
- October, Assoa, who claimed descent from King Ang Eng, rebelled against King Norodom, is arrested and handed over to the French by the Vietnamese.
- 1867, Poucombo is captured and put to death. "...Poucombo, an adventurer with striking charismatic powers who claims to be a grandson of King Ang Chan. He was, in fact, a member of a small minority group, the Kuoy, now almost completely assimilated into the Khmer population.... Backed by Vietnamese vagabonds, and possibly by mandarins who hoped to embarrass the French, Poucombo rallied a large part of the Khmer population in the east of the kingdom in Ba Phnom Province and about Tay-Ninh in Cochinchina to his cause. During 1865 and 1866 he had considerable success, sacking villages that resisted him and eluding French efforts to capture him. His followers may have numbered as many as ten thousand, and for a period he appeared to threaten the Royal court at Udong." [6]
- Siam abandons its claim of Cambodia. France persuades Siam to abandon its claim to Cambodia but allow the Siam to keep Battambang and Siem Reap provinces.
- 1868, Jean Moura is appointed as the French representative to the Khmer Kingdom. Rama V (1868 - 1910), Siamese king.
- 1870, Prince Sisowath is installed Obbareach with the wish and support of the French. The installation will ensure the Prince to succeed King Norodom upon his death or abdication.
- March 10, 1870, Edouard Pottier, interim French Representative to Cambodia.
- Nov. 11, 1870, Jules Marcel Brossard, interim French Representative to Cambodia.
- Jan. 1, 1871, Jean Moura is French Representative to Cambodia; his second term.
- 1873, Doudart de Lagree heads an expedition to make plaster impressions and bring back to France the first set of original works from Angkor and provincial sites such as Beng Mealea and Koh Ker in a campaign to "bring Angkor into the museums". [23]
- Dec. 27, 1875, Prince Sisowath Monivong is born.
- Jan. 6, 1879, Etienne Francois Aymonier, interim French Representative to Cambodia.
- May 10, 1881, Paul Julien Auguste Foures, interim French Representative to Cambodia. Delaporte, on his final mission to Cambodia, brings back a number of casts and seventy original works of Khmer art to France. [23]
- 1883, Charles Thomson is appointed governor to Cochinchina. He is the French official with ultimate authority over Cambodia.
- 1884, The French administration in Cochin China takes over the collection of taxes on opium and alcohol sold in the Khmer kingdom.
- June 17-24, 1884, France imposes a convention forcing King Norodom to accept administrative, judicial, finance and commercial reform, and direct control of the Khmer kingdom from France. Also, the French Representative in Cambodia will be called Resident General.
- Nov. 1, 1884, Resident General Foures commences the imposed June convention.

- Jan. 8, 1885, Khmer rebellion against French authority start. Supporters of Prince Si Votha attacked an isolated French military outpost at Sambor, just above the modern town of Kratie. In May, the insurgents attack the capital.
- Aug. 12, 1885, Jules Victor Renaud, interim Resident General to Cambodia.
- Oct. 16, 1885, Pierre Badens, Resident General to Cambodia.
- March 6, 1886, Prince Norodom Suramarit is born (b.03/06/1896 d.04/03/1960).
- May 17, 1886, Georges Jules Piquet, Resident General to Cambodia.
- 1887, Cambodia and Vietnam (Cochinchina, Annam, and Tonkin) are administratively united as the Indochina Union. Laos is added six years later.
- Oct. 17, 1887, France issues a decree placing Resident General in Cambodia under the authority of Governor General of Indochina.
- Nov. 4, 1887, Louis Eugene Palastre de Champeaux, interim Resident General to Cambodia.
- 1888, Um is appointed Akhamohasena (Prime Minister). “Um had been born in Pursat Province in 1821. At the age of sixteen he had entered the service of Ang Duong and accompanied the future king to Bangkok. He fought with Ang Duong and the Siamese against the Vietnamese who occupied Cambodia. When Ang Duong regained control of Cambodia, Um was appointed director of the royal pages. From then on he rose steadily in the royal service. In 1861, Norodom named him assistant to the minister of war, and in 1868 he became the actual minister. He was later minister of justice.” [6]
- March 10, 1889, Orsini, interim Resident General to Cambodia.
- May 9, 1889, France issues a decree reorganizing its high-level officials in Indochina; Resident General to Cambodia is renamed the Resident Superior.
- May 16, 1889, Albert Louis Huyn de Verneville, Resident Superior.
- Dec. 1891, Prince Si Votha died.
- 1892, French administration assume responsibility for collecting all taxes within the Khmer Kingdom, doing away with an earlier division of duties, which had left some direct taxes in King Norodom's hands.
- 1893, Prince Duong Chacr, King Norodom’s son, is arrested in Paris. He is interned in Algeria and remains there until his death in 1897.
- Oct. 3, 1893, the French and Siamese sign a treaty, in which the Siam abandons all claims to territory east of the Mekong and pays an indemnity of three million francs.
- Jan. 24, 1894, Felix Leonce Marquant, interim Resident Superior.
- Aug. 4, 1894, Albert Louis Huyn de Verneville, Resident Superior; his second term.
- 1895, King Norodom's mother dies.
- Jan. 15, 1896, the British and French reach an agreement, ending the long friction between the two countries on the Siamese issue. The British recognize the gained made by France in 1893 and abandon the demand for a buffer between Burma and the French colonies. Both countries guarantee the independence of Siam.
- In 1897, Prince Duong Chacr, who is interned by the French in Algeria, dies.
- May 14, 1897, Antoine Etienne Alexandre Ducos, Resident Superior.
- April 6, 1898, the council of ministers, at the request of the Resident Superior Ducos, approves a measure providing that the council has the right to appoint and dismiss all Khmer officials who earn a salary of less than sixteen Piastres a month, without any reference to the King. The decision present to King Norodom for his approval twice, and on each occasion he refuses, arguing that it will further diminish his power. [6]

Until it felt prey to French imperialism in the eighteenth century, the Khmer empire had always been an independent state. Even in the devastating wars with Siam, the empire was never subjugated or annexed. Angkor fell several times, yet the King of Siam did not occupy it, but quickly withdrew with the spoils of war to the Menam river region. More than precious works of art with great aesthetic value, these spoils of war symbolized the privileged position that the Khmer empire enjoyed with the gods- the cult of the God King-and the occupied a revered place in the Siamese court. From the fifteenth century onwards, for three hundred years, these spoils of wars changed hands several times, to the rhythms of victory and defeat of the Kingdoms and principalities of the region. In 1734, Burma defeated Siam and transferred such treasures to Mandalay, a political centre in the northern Shan state, where they still resides today.⁸

The Nguyen, who took over the territory, began a systematic advance by stages and soon brought almost all the former Cambodian territory under their control. They also built three military colonies beyond the Vietnamese frontiers, which were populated by retired soldiers and prisoners. Once a colony was well-established, it was then incorporated into the kingdom of Cochinchina. Thus the frontiers of Cambodia, sandwiched as these were between the Nguyens and the Siamese, began to shrink swiftly and by mid 18th century, it had lost the lands of the Mekong Delta.⁹

But the historical fear of Khmer leaders that their country would be swallowed up can scarcely have been acute than in April 1975. To the west were 44 million Thais with a strong army and economy, and the backing of the United States. To the east was Vietnam, which was about to be reunited after thirty years into a nation of 48 million with all the captured military hardware that the United States had poured in over the past decade.¹⁰

Thais and Vietnamese have always been trying so extremely hard to seal off Khmer National ID from outside world. In every book is being written by Siamese and Yuonese, always bullshitting to the world that there are only a few thousands of Khmers living on their land.

The next four hundred years (1432-1864) was the transition period of the Khmer Empire, from a great nation to a nearly extinct French protectorate. During the first half of this period, Cambodia was involved in a duel with Thailand, in which Thailand claimed suzerainty over Cambodia and for centuries tried to validate its claim by forceful means, as well as through puppet Khmer kings.

Despite Thailand was showing greater strength in winning the wars over Cambodia, but the Thai did allow the Khmer to keep what was Khmer. By contrast, when the Khmer came in contact

⁸ Peter Wai-Chuen: Angkor Wat (2000) P.30

⁹ Joginder Singh Jessy: History of South-east Asia (1824-1965), (1985) P.104

¹⁰ William Shawcross: Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon and the Destruction of Cambodia (1986) P.169

with the new neighbors to the east, Vietnam, it was a different matter. Earlier we described Kampuchea Krom as a fertile land, suitable for the northern neighbors to move in. (Khmer Krom)

Cambodian people are so extremely kind, honest, trustworthy and friendly until their lands are getting smaller and smaller, are like a good sandwich, illegally and nicely eaten on the silver plate by Siamese and Yuonese every day until today. And it's still happening today at Khmer-Siam and Yuon borders. Thais and Vietnamese always regarded themselves as civilized people in the South East Asia. But what sorts of civilized people are they? And the people in the outside world who still terribly misunderstood that Cambodia where there are full of killing fields, intimidations, and tortures...Yes, there are many killings, intimidations, tortures and environment destroyers, all but Vietnamese and Thais who are destroying everything Khmers had.

Look, around Tonle Sap, where there are at least one million illegal Vietnamese migrants who eat, sleep and shit into water. They completely are poisoning the water to kill all fish. A Khmer man, who came to live in Australia from Kompong Chhnang Province, clearly told me that if one of us Khmers go fishing on boat alone who would be without returning to their home, be killed on the spot by the Vietnamese fishers who are living on the water. If the people in the outside world who didn't know much about Khmer plights and dangers, might say that Khmers are xenophobia/racists. Today, they are still busy accusing each other, and fighting among themselves with the foreigners' backings. Not many history books are written by Khmer author/writers in English explaining to the people in the outside world about the dangers to the Khmer nation that we-Khmers are facing to until these days as following:

Cambodia has held a special appeal for foreigners. Many of the journalists, tourists and diplomats who visited it in 1950s and 1960s wrote of an idyllic, antique land unsullied by the brutalities of the modern world. Phnom Penh was, it is true, an exquisite riverine city, and its fine white and yellow-ochre buildings, charming squares and cafes lent it a French provincial charm that gave it a considerable edge over its tawdry neighbours Bangkok and Saigon. It had not been overwhelmed by the pressures of war and trade; its population was only about 600,000, and there was little sign of the shantytowns of Coca-Cola-can slums in which Thai and Vietnamese peasants eked out a miserable existence. The huge covered market was stacked high with local produce-vegetables, rice and dozens of kinds of fish caught in the many waters of the land. And the countryside, where 90 percent of the people lived in villages built around their Buddhist temples seemed, if anything, even more attractive than the capital.

The Cambodian people were taller, darker, more sensuous and apparently friendlier than the Thais or the Vietnamese; visitors took to them immediately. There were no strategic hamlets, no refugee camps, and no State Department men with M-16 rifles and earnest smiles explaining the logic of rural development, and neither were there any Soviet or Chinese B-40 rockets firing indiscriminately from the tree line into the villages.

The country is about the same size as Missouri, or of England and Wales. Thick tropical forests cover much of the land, and two great rivers flow across and fertilize the central plains, where most of the people have always lived.¹¹

Siamese + Yuonese= murderers/butchers/Genocide/pogrom/killing field creators, bloodsuckers/Draculas, the dreamers of creating Indochinese Federation, hegemonists, neo-colonialisms, imperialisms, expansionisms, annexationists, Leninists, Stalists, totalitarianism, dictators/tyrants, landplunderers, landrobbers, eartheaters, conquerors, encroachers, invaders/aggressors, oppressors, statue looters and barbarianism ...who are the worst violators of human rights on earth, have committed too much ferocious crime against Khmers, are perfectly trying to seal off their dirty plans of genocide on Khmers from the outside world, to read like this:

But they are civilized w/lots of experts in many...

Posted By: Angel

Thailand is a civilized country and nation. What I don't understand is how come Thailand always teases Cambodia with her act of aggression and sometimes barbaric behavior? Can you explain? Also, since you seemed to be so hateful and disgusted with Thailand, can you suggest a solution so that Thai troops will not set their army posts and soldiers in Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia? Because right now, they are inside Cambodia for more than three days, and all the Khmer villagers have moved out of the area due to fear of execution and Thai soldiers.

I'm afraid they'd be repercussion if Thailand continued with her aggression. Thailand shot her own Thai citizen, approximately 500-700 people in Southern Thailand due to ethnic issue. However, Cambodians did not do anything to them, why would she send her soldiers INSIDE Cambodia? I don't understand.

Also, Burma and Laos, do not like Thailand, not to consider the Muslim ethnic majority in Southern Thailand...Why would Thai want to cause trouble with Cambodia? I don't get it. Do you? Please explain to me in your very best normal tone with real solution, not with your raising temper and personal frustration.

¹¹ William Shawcross: Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon and the Destruction of Cambodia (1986) P.36

(POLITICS FORUM. Date: Sunday, 15 May 2005, at 7:33 a.m.

In Response To: Re: Thailand invasion of Preah Vihear Province (TheVISION) ***

Cambodians DO NOT need to rub these greedy SIAM' asses by calling them "CIVILIZED THAILAND". These Thai leeches do not deserve to be named as civilized Thailand. Think about it SOT.)

Barbaric Thais are still barbaric Thais not expert

In Response To: But they are civilized w/lots of experts in many.. (Angel)

Thai government know that Cambodian government are too weak, too corrupted and too busy to deal with them on issues of their chipping away of Cambodia land here and there everyday. Besides, all they need to do is to deal with the main Cambodian leader(HUN SEN)on big businesses between the two nations where Mr. H.S gets some big \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$'s from Thailand then the smaller issues such as 10 kilometers of Cambodian land lost to Thailand is nothing to be concerned about. 🇰🇷The lack of long term vision toward Cambodia against neighboring countries' attacks have made people like you and some of those top Cambodian leaders look like a bunch of stupid monkeys jumping to the Thais and Viets' music while Cambodia land is lost and the Cambodian people are suffering and the trends continue.

*** First of all, Hun Sen should not rush to lick Thai prime minister's ass about any business talks which seem to be more beneficial to Thailand at this time especially while the disputed zone is being violated by the THAI government. Cambodian government must clearly define what belongs to Cambodia and what belongs to Thailand before any business talk should take place. Cambodian government must make sure to the Thai government that both sides respect each other's boundary and that no one should violate that. If one is doing so, then it is not tolerable by the other. Peaceful talk means mutual respect. If the Thai government allows their soldiers to violate Cambodian land while they are smiling and luring Hun Sen to talk about business ventures between the two countries and ignoring other issues, this is NOT a mutual respect.

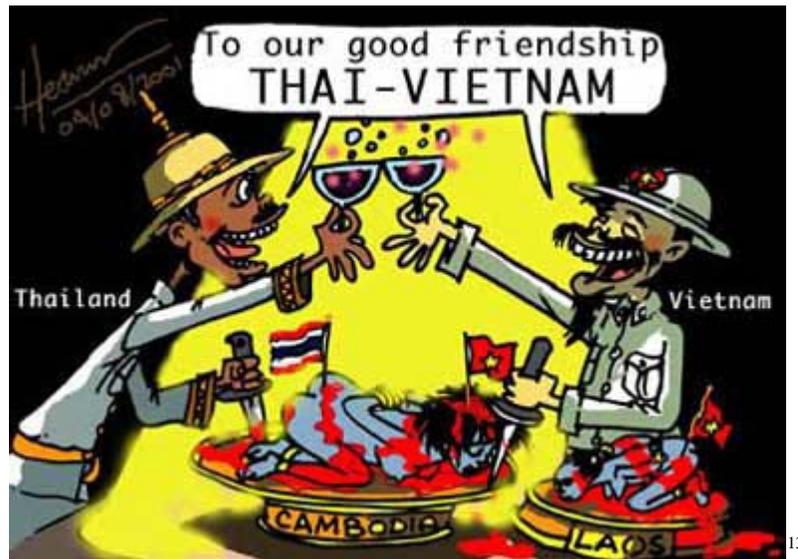
*** KSOT, listen up! Cambodians do not need to say YES, YOU THAI AND VIET can come and live in Cambodia before those THAIS and VIETS come in Cambodia. These two neighboring sharks will eat, harm and kill Cambodians if they have to whether we like it or not. Cambodians don't need to do things to the Thais and Viets for them to attacks us. They attack Cambodians when they see that Cambodian government is a sitting duck. Now, what is it that KSOT don't understand huh?? Must you poke the crocodiles first while you're in their eating zone for them to attack you?? Now think about that stupid KSOT.

*** Suppose Cambodia has 10 rich oil zones and Thailand has none. Now, tell me you dumb ass!! Doesn't that make these hungry wolves (THAIS) want to take advantage of the weak Cambodians when they see they have a chance to rip it off from Cambodians??? If the Thai and Viets government know for certain that Cambodian government won't do shit to them whenever they move their boundary line into Cambodia and steal chunks by chunks of land and make them theirs, wouldn't that encourage them to continue to do what they're doing against the weak

Cambodians?? Besides, they steal things from Cambodians in broad day light and nothing is done to them so why should they stop???

(POLITICS FORUM Posted By: The VISION Date: Sunday, 15 May 2005, at 10:52 p.m.)

Here we see a comparison between the geopolitical status of Cambodia and that of Scotland. Many observers agree that Cambodia is like Poland, in between larger states, but like Scotland?¹²



When the war was over, Cambodia's Revolution & the Voice of its People

Angkor's decline, feuds within the royal family that facilitated foreign conquest of Cambodia and ninety years of French colonial rule added bitterness to the legacy. By the time Cambodia won its independence in this century, its national pride had been severely wounded, neighbouring Siamese and Vietnamese had grabbed territory, nearly always with the aid of a Khmer prince, and the French had declared Cambodians unfit for the modern era. Whenever a leader rose to challenge the French as occurred during the Second World War, he was done as often by his fellow Khmer as foreign figure.¹⁴

As their neighbouring states of Vietnamese and Siamese grew in stature and appetite for Khmer territory, the people became convinced that their race and culture would disappear. In their culture, there were two answers to such a threat: either accept it as it inevitable or use all measures, regardless of their violence, to prevent it.¹⁵

Cambodia's Buddhist heritage; Cambodia proved fertile ground for both messages that exalted the injured Khmer nation and race. The centuries of defeat and humiliation since Angkor, the

¹² sophal@csua.berkeley.edu URL: <http://www.csua.berkeley.edu/~sophal>)

¹³ Cartoon by Bun Heang Ung <http://sacrava.blogspot.com>

¹⁴ Elizabeth Becker: When the War Was over: Cambodia's Revolution & the Voice of its people (1986) P.46

¹⁵ Elizabeth Becker: When the War Was over: Cambodia's Revolution & the Voice of its people (1986) P.84

effect of the French patronizing of “lazy” Cambodians while promoting “industrious” Vietnamese and the vivid fear of those “industrious”. Vietnamese taking over Cambodia had left their mark.¹⁶

Now they wondered if Lon Nol had dreams of restoring the entire ancient Khmer empire, of regaining the “lost provinces” from South Vietnam, Thailand and Laos. Their fears were realistic. Lon Nol was one of those Cambodians who could not bring himself to call South Vietnam any more name other than Kampuchea Krom “lower Cambodia.”

“At the peak of its splendour, our country earned the surname of Chenla the rich and the people lived an easy, comfortable life. This sweet life was forgotten by the menace war, and the Khmer people, after having known a period of glory and peace, were invaded by the Siamese in the fourteenth century. In 1432, they had to move their capital [from Angkor] to Udong. In the seventeenth and eighteen centuries, a double attack by the Annamites [Vietnamese] and Siamese [Thais] sowed disorder in the country and our people, after having known glory and power, entered into a period of difficulty because at that moment European colonialism appeared on the horizon. The English on one side and the French on the other, thanks to modern weaponry, undertook the partition of the Indochinese peninsula, and then all of Asia fell under the “domination of the white.”

Lon Nol, the “black papa,” then described the current situation and the modern enemy-the North Vietnamese and Vietcong, whom he was as the modern children of the Annamites who had conquered Kampuchea Krom. Their goal, he wrote, was to “systematically destroy our socioeconomic structure to them but to change our way of life, to modify our way of thinking and abolish our religious beliefs.”

He said the country was embroiled in war for the very existence of the Khmer race and culture against an “implacable enemy... the most cruel and most barbaric in history.” but he had full confidence that his holy warriors would defeat the Vietnamese. "during five centuries our people have known miseries and calamities, but in the face of all these vicissitudes-occupied territory, people under domination-the Khmer, thanks to their determination, to their indomitable courage, have lifted their heads and are recovering liberty... we can restore our historic glory that our country the titles' the island of power' and 'Chenla the rich'; it is possible that our generation can fashion from their hands a new Khmer state, rich, independent, and powerful.”¹⁷

Racial salvation, “national honour and dignity,” the restoration of control over: our national territory and our race" became the public themes of the revolution, even to the point of mentioning

¹⁶ Elizabeth Becker: When the War Was over: Cambodia's Revolution & the Voice of its people (1986) P.136

¹⁷ Elizabeth Becker: When the War Was over: Cambodia's Revolution & the Voice of its people (1986) P.142

how “we have already lost Kampuchea Krom,” or south Vietnam. Saloth Sar had become Lon Nol without sorcery.¹⁸

The Cambodians asked Vietnamese why they were abiding by their 1967 agreement with Sihanouk that recognized all existing borders between Vietnam and Cambodia as drawn by the French. Although the French boundaries had been drawn in favor of the Vietnamese, Sihanouk had used them in negotiations simply to establish that the Vietnamese had no right to claim further territory. The most controversial of the lines was the “brevie line” which the French had drawn as the maritime boundary between the Vietnamese and Cambodians but which they had described as colonial administrative boundary, not necessarily a true international boundary.¹⁹

In his book (War & Hope, with William Shawcross, 1980), King Sihanouk gave all clearest messages to the world about Siamese and Vietnamese dirty plans against Khmers:

Cambodia’s history is unfortunately replete with plots and counterplots, conquests and occupations, secret conspiracies. Wedged between the Annamites and the Siamese, the ancient Khmer Empire commanded their respect. It stretched from the Point of Camau, the extreme southern tip of Indochina, to near the site of Bangkok. Little by little the Empire disintegrated. On August 11, 1863, the French Admiral Lagrandiere forced King Norodom to sign a protectorate treaty. On July 17, 1884, the Kingdom further capitulated in order to survive: the Governor of Cochin China, Charles Thomson, arrived in Phnom Penh, threatened the Khmer sovereign with deportation, and forced him to sign a protectorate treaty under which he relinquished judicial, financial, military, and diplomatic powers...etc.(Ibid. p. xiv)

The most serious of the Cambodian-Vietnamese encounters was in June and July, 1975. At stake was the Wai Island group, a likely base for possible offshore oil-drilling operations. The islands had always been governed by Cambodia. However, during the 1950s, Saigon’s U.S.-backed dictator, Ngo Dinh Diem, made an official claim to Wai and a number of Cambodia’s other coastal islands. Norodom Sihanouk categorically rejected these insane demands, and Ngo Dinh Diem desisted.

Then came Lon Nol’s coup d’etat, overthrowing Norodom Sihanouk. Diem’s successor in Saigon, Nguyen Van Thieu, took advantage of the situation to annex most Cambodia’s coastal islands.

In late April, 1975, the Cambodian and Vietnamese Communists, giddy with victory, wasted no time in claiming the Wai group and another secondary (Cambodian) island by force. They also demanded a “favourable delineation” of the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, despite the fact it is

¹⁸ Norodom Sihanouk: War and Hope: The Case for Cambodia (1980) P.179

¹⁹ Norodom Sihanouk: War and Hope: The Case for Cambodia (1980) P.208

well established and clearly marked on maps made during the French Colonial period as well as on more recent American-made maps.²⁰

Following their exodus from Angkor around 1440, the Khmers attempted reconsolidation of their empire. Although the Thais were threatening from the west, the eastern borders of Kambuja still stretched across the Mekong Delta to the South China Sea. To the north of the Delta was the state of Champa. And, above the Chams, were the powerful and aggressive Annamites, a fiercely warlike people who called themselves Dai Viet.

The Chams were Kambuja's protective buffer against the southward thrusts of the expansionist Vietnamese who in turn were being pressurized downwards by the Chinese. But the uncomprehending Khmers regarded the Chams as natural enemies and ferociously continued constant, pricking attacks against them.²¹

These struggles weakened the Cham, leaving them vulnerable to the Vietnamese who eventually overran Champa and wiped that state from continued pressing southwards, chipping at eastern Kambuja.

That was the beginning of the Cambodian-Vietnamese conflict; a protracted struggle which still rages unabated today. Just as Pol Pot's insanity let the Vietnamese in through the back door in 1979, so it was the Khmers' own foolishness five hundred years earlier which enabled the Vietnamese to slip in then, too.

For in 1470, when the Vietnamese hurled themselves at Champa, the Chams had sought Khmer aid. But the Cambodians scorned the plight of their neighbour. Subsequently the Cham capital of Vijaya was sacked by the Vietnamese in 1471. Although not involved in the fight, that event was decisive in the Khmers' history because with Champa wiped out the buffer was gone. Cambodia was now the meat between the Thai and the Vietnamese sandwich.

From the west the Thais remained aggressive and the new Cambodian capital of Lovek due to heavy bamboo fortress. The story goes that cunning Thais deliberately fired fusillades of silver bullets to fall short into the bamboo and then retreated back, seemingly abandoning the siege. Upon discovering silver bullets in the thickets, the Cambodians are said to have hacked down the bamboo in a scrambling search for the prized souvenirs. The Thais then returned and with the bamboo thickets now gone had a much easier time of storming the walls. They the burnt Lovek, destroying historical Cambodian archives.

Simultaneously the Vietnamese pressurized from the east, and from now on it was to be a long, downhill slide for the Cambodians; a constant, desperate struggle for survival.

²⁰ Norodom Sihanouk: War and Hope: The Case for Cambodia (1980) Pp.38-39

²¹ Simon Ross: Subjugation of Cambodia (1983) P.9

Saigon had begun as a sleepy Cambodian fishing village named Prei Kor, but three hundred years ago the Saigon area and strips of the Mekong were forcibly taken by the Vietnamese. Further still the invaders encroached. It soon seemed that the whole of Cambodia was Vietnam's for the taking until the Cambodians were momentarily spared by the Tay-Son rebellion inside Vietnam which distracted the Vietnamese rulers.

But the relief was only temporary and by 1800 Cambodia had lost all the Mekong Delta to Vietnamese aggression and this fertile area was settled by Vietnamese settlers. The few Cambodians who remained there became a minority in their own homelands.

Cambodia was by now very weak. The Khmer people still retained vigour as ferocious fighters, but courtly intrigues and bad military blunders by the Khmer general sapped the war effort. Also, the Cambodian monarch and his mandarins had long exploited the Khmer peasants, leaving them sullen and weary.

What was left of Cambodia became vassals of her two powerful neighbours. The Thais even annexed outright the western Cambodian provinces of Battambang, Sisophon and Siem Reap.

In 1833 the Vietnamese placed a puppet Khmer on the Cambodian throne and, when he soon died, replaced him with his daughter; she too only a token ruler, control exercised by the Vietnamese and enforced by a Vietnamese army of occupation. Cambodia had become a fragment of her aggressive neighbour who attempted to 'Vietnamise' the 'dark, barbarian' Khmers.

The Khmers appealed to the Thais for help and Bangkok sent troops in. For Thailand, like Cambodia, had an Indianised culture, whereas the Vietnamese were Sino (reflecting their Chinese origins). As Herz points out in his 1958 book *A Short History of Cambodia*, the rebellion proved two points:

It was first of all, a spontaneous popular revolution, organized by men of the people and co-ordinated by networks of messengers who gave cohesion to the actions of the peasants who had seemed so compliant, dull-witted and uninformed but who knew when their country's existence was at stake and responded to the supreme challenge. At the very end of campaign, when all seemed lost as a fresh Vietnamese force took Phnom Penh and marched against Udong, it was not the Thai army that won the victory but a bush army of Cambodian peasants that appeared from nowhere, routed the Vietnamese and killed their general.²²

The second lesson, no less important, is that when the Cambodian people had to choose between a Vietnamese or a Thai occupation, they chose the Thais. To this day, Cambodians deeply distrust the Thais, who are their cousins, but they passionately hate and fear the Vietnamese who are a world apart. Aside from all the ethnic, linguistic, religious and other cultural difference,

²² Simon Ross: *Subjugation of Cambodia* (1983) Pp.10-11

there was also a difference in the types of conquests: the Vietnamese colonized Cambodian soil, expelling the Cambodian peasants of harassing them to a point where they abandoned their land. The Thais...annexed or occupied large portions of Cambodia (but) sent no Thai settlers into them. On the contrary, they prevented the Cambodian peasants from leaving.²³

Like any other country, Cambodia was the complex product of geographical, social and political experience that provides precedent and warning for future history. It was never quite the smiling, gentle land that foreigners liked to see.

Water has fashioned Cambodia. In prehistory the central plain of the country was under the sea, and waves broke against the Dangrek Mountains of Southern Laos. The Mekong River fell through the narrow Laotian ranges and over the Khong Falls into the sea. Gradually the river built up the soil and filled the gulf to form present-day Cambodia and southern Vietnam. Today only the Great Lake (Tonle Sap) in the centre of Cambodia marks the original line of the seacoast. The lake is shaped an upside-down violin from northwest to southeast across the country, its stem leading into the Tonle Sap River to join the Mekong at the watershed on which the city of Phnom Penh was eventually built. The rivers meet briefly and dived again, as the Mekong and the Bassac, and flow on in two streams through fertile, red muddy fields into the great fanlike Delta of the Mekong, and so to the South China Sea.

In late spring the rivers begin to swell as torrents flow from the Himalayas over the Khong Falls and into the central plains. The great clouds that have been lowering over the Indian Ocean are driven toward the Asian land mass by the southwest trades. They break over the cracked plains and for four months Cambodia is inundated. The Mekong and the Bassac cannot contain the mass of silt-laden water that pours down toward the sea, and backs up in the Tonle Sap. In what should constitute a wonder of the world, the waters are actually reversed; they rush swirling back up the Tonle Sap River and burst into the Great Lake, which instantly spills over its shores and drowns thousands of acres of trees and fields. For most of the summer months the land remains under water to be re-fertilized and reinvigorated, and all of Cambodia is, in Rimbaud's words, "filled with ochrous skies and drowned forests." By November, the Himalayan snows have melted, prevailing winds are reversed, the clouds are driven away, the torrents of the monsoon cease, and the pressure on the Tonle Sap eases. The waters slip off the land and, filled with millions of fish, sweep down the rivers and into the sea.

As a result, parts of Cambodia are potentially among the most fertile of the tropical zones. But in its raw state the area is hostile; the damp atmosphere is draining the oppressive, the animal life is unfriendly, and the receding waters leave stagnant swamps as well as fertilized soil. Only extensive irrigation ensures a crop necessary for an expanding population. Civilization have flourished in the plains when the water has been brought under control, but-as elsewhere in

²³ Simon Ross: Subjugation of Cambodia (1983) P.12

Southeast Asia-there has always been tension between the people in the plains and the nomadic groups who have lived in the forest or the mountains.

Cambodia became a vassal of Siam, unnoticed and almost unmentioned. Occasional attempts were made by her kings to reassert themselves, and Angkor was briefly reoccupied, but the efforts never lasted long. For the next several centuries the Siamese and Vietnamese kingdoms grew and Cambodia waned. Siamese armies moved back and forth across the western part of the unproductive land, and to the east the Vietnamese moved southward into the Mekong Delta. The capital shifted from site to site, including Phnom Penh, as different dynasties occupied the throne. Successive princes sought support from either the Vietnamese or the Siamese and became beholden to either one or the other.

The Khmers' fear of their more populous neighbors increased as more and more of the old empire was annexed. But there was a vital difference in the relationships. The Siamese and the Khmers shared the same religion and similar cultural patterns; this mitigated the effects of occupation by Siam. Relations with Vietnam by contrast involved a sharp cultural clash between Indian-influenced and Chinese-dominated views of society; they were much more brutal and bitter. Unlike the Siamese, the Vietnamese regarded the Cambodians as "barbarians" and attempted to eradicate Cambodian customs in the areas they seized.

By the early nineteenth century, the king received his crown from the Siamese and paid tribute to the Vietnamese. Cambodia was reduced to silver between the two countries; Angkor, largely lost from view, was well inside Siam. As one scholar has noted, thousands of Khmers were being "killed and uprooted in a series of ruinous wars, carried on inside [their] territory by the Thai, the Vietnamese and local factions." The Thais burned down the Khmer capital three times in the first half of century; Vietnamese advisers kept the Cambodian monarch a prisoner for fifteen years; the chronicles are filled with references to plaques, famine and flood. It was a dark period.²⁴

Khmer Empire glory faded

In Simon Ross's *Subjugation of Cambodia* was supreme: an empire that was the pinnacles of her age. At their peak the Khmers controlled most of mainland South-East Asia. From what is now Burma in the West, the Khmer homelands stretched across present Thailand and southern Laos, through Cambodia and over most of southern Vietnam.

But the glory that was her splendid past has long gone since vanished. Just a battered shell remains of what the ancient Chinese once called 'that most glorious of kingdoms to the south'. It is known though that, about the time of Christ, India had a profound effect on the local people,

²⁴ William Shawcross: *Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon and the Destruction of Cambodia* (1986) Pp.36-37

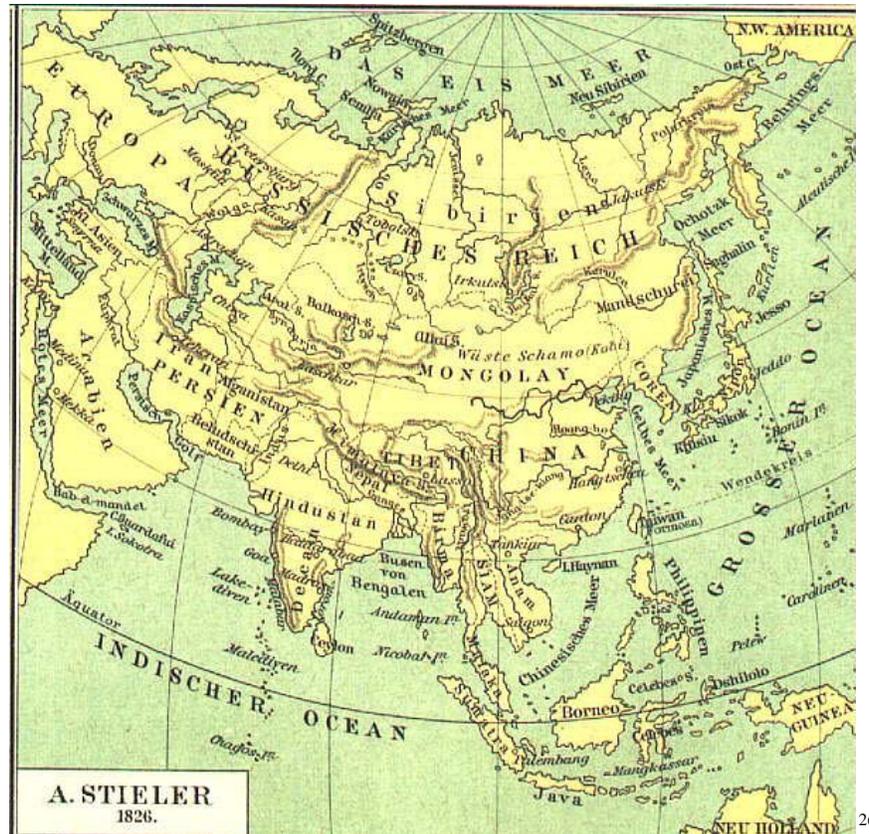
and through inter-activity with Indian traders the Khmer came to embrace Hinduism. The culture which developed showed strong Indian influence but was distinctively Khmer.

Two states evolved in the area, Funan (=Phnom =Hill) and Chenla (=Kramournsar/sot = White/Pure Wax), and they fought many a bitter war over the centuries before finally fusing to form the single state of Kambuja. This new state flourished in the highly fertile land around the Great Lake of the mighty Tonle Sap River. Just to the north of the Great Lake the Khmer kings created the breath taking stone city of Angkor; arguably one of the most stupendous of Man's achievements.²⁵

In 1840 the Cambodians mounted a rebellion against the increasing Vietnamese domination of Khmer life. The Vietnamese emperor, Minh Mang, characterized Vietnam's attitude to the Khmers in a letter to his general, Truong Minh Giang: "Sometimes the Cambodians are loyal; at other times they betray us. We helped them when they suffering and lifted them out of the mud...Now they are rebellious: I am so angry that my hair stands upright...Hundreds of knives should be used against them, to chop them up, to dismember them..." Elsewhere he ordered that they be "crushed to powder." We are happy killing Vietnamese. We no longer fear them." On this occasion the Khmer rebels used hit-and-d run tactics against the better-armed Vietnamese, who were forced to withdraw from around Phnom Penh to the Delta. Even so, by the middle of the century the country was on the verge of disappearing altogether into the grasps of its neighbors; it would have happened had the French not intervened and imposed a protectorate.

As, obviously, we have seen the two-self-regards of young warmongering civilized Siamese and Yuonese nations who had appallingly effaced Cambodia's Map on the World Map between 18th and 19th Century. Can the people in the outside world call these two warmongering nations "Civilized Countries", too? Because Cambodian lands were being wiped out on the World Map like that:

²⁵ Simon Ross: Subjugation of Cambodia (1983) P.5



Villager resting near pre-Angkorian ruins

More than four centuries that passed from the abandonment of Angkor around the mid-fifteenth century to the establishment of a protectorate under the French in 1863 are considered by historians to be Cambodia's "dark ages," a period of economic, social, and cultural stagnation when the kingdom's internal affairs came increasingly under the control of its aggressive neighbors, the Thai and the Vietnamese. By the mid-nineteenth century, Cambodia had become an almost helpless pawn in the power struggles between Thailand and Vietnam and probably would have been completely absorbed by one or the other if France had not intervened, giving Cambodia a colonially dominated "lease on life." Fear of racial and cultural extinction has persisted as a major theme in modern Cambodian thought and helps to explain the intense nationalism and xenophobia of the Khmer Rouge during the 1970s. (Courtesy Bill Herod. Data as of December 1987)²⁷

²⁶ <http://www.univie.ac.at/Voelkerkunde/apsi/aufi/maps/asia1826.jpg>

²⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_ages_of_Cambodia

Cambodia's struggle for survival 1432-1887

The more than four centuries that passed from the abandonment of Angkor around the mid-15th century to the establishment of a protectorate under the French in 1863 are considered by historians to be Cambodia's "dark ages," a period of economic, social, and cultural stagnation when the kingdom's internal affairs came increasingly under the control of its aggressive neighbors, the Thai and the Vietnamese. By the mid-19th century, Cambodia had become an almost helpless pawn in the power struggles between Thailand and Vietnam and probably would have been completely absorbed by one or the other if France had not intervened, giving Cambodia a colonially dominated "lease on life." Fear of racial and cultural extinction has persisted as a major theme in modern Cambodian thought and helps to explain the intense nationalism and xenophobia of the Khmer Rouge during the 1970s. Establishment in 1979 of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, a Vietnamese-dominated satellite state, can be seen as the culmination of a process of Vietnamese encroachment that was already well under way by the seventeenth century.

The process of internal decay and foreign encroachment was gradual rather than precipitous and was hardly evident in the fifteenth century when the Khmer were still powerful. Following the fall of Angkor Thom, the Cambodian court abandoned the region north of the Tonle Sap, never to return except for a brief interlude in the late sixteenth century. By this time however, the Khmer penchant for monument building had ceased. Older faiths such as Mahayana Buddhism and the Hindu cult of the god-king had been supplanted by Theravada Buddhism, and the Cambodians had become part of the same religious and cultural cosmos as the Thai. This similarity did not prevent intermittent warfare between the two kingdoms, however. During the sixteenth century Cambodian armies, taking advantage of Thai troubles with the Burmese, invaded the Thai kingdom several times.

In the meantime, following the abandonment of the Angkorian sites, the Khmer established a new capital several hundred kilometers to the southeast on the site of what is now Phnom Penh. This new center of power was located at the confluence of the Mekong and the Tonle Sap rivers. Thus, it controlled the river commerce of the Khmer heartland and the Laotian kingdoms and had access, by way of the Mekong Delta, to the international trade routes that linked the China coast, the South China Sea, and the Indian Ocean. A new kind of state and society emerged, more open to the outside world and more dependent on commerce as a source of wealth than its inland predecessor. The growth of maritime trade with China during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) provided lucrative opportunities for members of the Cambodian elite who controlled royal trading monopolies. The appearance of Europeans in the region in the sixteenth century also stimulated commerce.

King Ang Chan (1516-66), one of the few great Khmer monarchs of the post-Angkorian period, moved the capital from Phnom Penh to Lovek. Portuguese and Spanish travelers who visited the

city, located on the banks of the Tonle Sab, a river north of Phnom Penh, described it as a place of fabulous wealth. The products traded there included precious stones, metals, silk and cotton, incense, ivory, lacquer, livestock (including elephants), and rhinoceros horn (prized by the Chinese as a rare and potent medicine). By the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, Lovek contained flourishing foreign trading communities of Chinese, Indonesians, Malays, Japanese, Arabs, Spanish, and Portuguese. They were joined later in the century by the English and the Dutch.

Because the representatives of practically all these nationalities were pirates, adventurers, or traders, this was an era of stormy cosmopolitanism. Hard-pressed by the Thai, King Sattha (1576-94) surrounded himself with a personal guard of Spanish and Portuguese mercenaries, and in 1593 asked the Spanish governor of the Philippines for aid. Attracted by the prospects of establishing a Spanish protectorate in Cambodia and of converting the monarch to Christianity, the governor sent a force of 120 men, but Lovek had already fallen to the Thai when they arrived the following year. The Spanish took advantage of the extremely confused situation to place one of Sattha's sons on the throne in 1597. Hopes of making the country a Spanish dependency were dashed, however, when the Spaniards were massacred two years later by an equally belligerent contingent of Malay mercenaries.

The Thai, however, had dealt a fatal blow to Cambodian independence by capturing Lovek in 1594. With the posting of a Thai military governor in the city, a degree of foreign political control was established over the kingdom for the first time. Cambodian chronicles describe the fall of Lovek as a catastrophe from which the nation never fully recovered.

Domination by Thailand and by Vietnam

More than their conquest of Angkor a century and a half earlier, the Thai capture of Lovek marked the beginning of a decline in Cambodia's fortunes. One possible reason for the decline was the labor drain imposed by the Thai conquerors as they marched thousands of Khmer peasants, skilled artisans, scholars, and members of the Buddhist clergy back to their capital of Ayutthaya. This practice, common in the history of Southeast Asia, crippled Cambodia's ability to recover a semblance of its former greatness. A new Khmer capital was established at Odongk (Udong), south of Lovek, but its monarchs could survive only by entering into what amounted to vassal relationships with the Thai and with the Vietnamese. In common parlance, Thailand became Cambodia's "father" and Vietnam its "mother."

By the late fifteenth century, the Vietnamese--who, unlike other Southeast Asian peoples, had patterned their culture and their civilization on those of China--had defeated the once powerful kingdom of Champa in central Vietnam. Thousands of Chams fled into Khmer territory. By the early seventeenth century, the Vietnamese had reached the Mekong Delta, which was inhabited by Khmer people. In 1620 the Khmer king Chey Chettha II (1618-28) married a daughter of Sai Vuong, one of the Nguyen lords (1558- 1778), who ruled southern Vietnam for most of the

period of the restored Le dynasty (1428-1788). Three years later, Chey Chettha allowed the Vietnamese to establish a custom-house at Prey Nokor, near what is now Ho Chi Minh City (until 1975, Saigon). By the end of the seventeenth century, the region was under Vietnamese administrative control, and Cambodia was cut off from access to the sea. Trade with the outside world was possible only with Vietnamese permission.

There were periods in the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries, when Cambodia's neighbors were preoccupied with internal or external strife, that afforded the beleaguered country a breathing spell. The Vietnamese were involved in a lengthy civil war until 1674, but upon its conclusion they promptly annexed sizable areas of contiguous Cambodian territory in the region of the Mekong Delta. For the next one hundred years they used the alleged mistreatment of Vietnamese colonists in the delta as a pretext for their continued expansion. By the end of the eighteenth century, they had extended their control to include the area encompassed in the late 1980s by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam).

Thailand, which might otherwise have been courted as an ally against Vietnamese incursions in the eighteenth century, was itself involved in a new conflict with Burma. In 1767 the Thai capital of Ayutthaya was besieged and destroyed. The Thai quickly recovered, however, and soon reasserted their dominion over Cambodia. The youthful Khmer king, Ang Eng (1779-96), a refugee at the Thai court, was installed as monarch at Odongk by Thai troops. At the same time, Thailand quietly annexed Cambodia's three northernmost provinces. In addition, the local rulers of the northwestern provinces of Batdambang and Siemreab (Siemreap) became vassals of the Thai king, and these areas came under the Thai sphere of influence.

A renewed struggle between Thailand and Vietnam for control of Cambodia in the nineteenth century resulted in a period when Vietnamese officials, working through a puppet Cambodian king, ruled the central part of the country and attempted to force Cambodians to adopt Vietnamese customs. Several rebellions against Vietnamese rule ensued. The most important of these occurred in 1840 to 1841 and spread through much of the country. After two years of fighting, Cambodia and its two neighbors reached an accord that placed the country under the joint suzerainty of Thailand and Vietnam. At the behest of both countries, a new monarch, Ang Duong (1848-59), ascended the throne and brought a decade of peace and relative independence to Cambodia.

In their arbitrary treatment of the Khmer population, the Thai and the Vietnamese were virtually indistinguishable. The suffering and the dislocation caused by war were comparable in many ways to similar Cambodian experiences in the 1970s. But the Thai and the Vietnamese had fundamentally different attitudes concerning their relationships with Cambodia. The Thai shared with the Khmer a common religion, mythology, literature, and culture. The Chakri kings at Bangkok wanted Cambodia's loyalty and tribute, but they had no intention of challenging or changing its people's values or way of life. The Vietnamese viewed the Khmer people as

barbarians to be civilized through exposure to Vietnamese culture, and they regarded the fertile Khmer lands as legitimate sites for colonization by settlers from Vietnam.

The French Protectorate

France's interest in Indochina in the nineteenth century grew out of its rivalry with Britain, which had excluded it from India and had effectively shut it out of other parts of mainland Southeast Asia. The French also desired to establish commerce in a region that promised so much untapped wealth and to redress the Vietnamese state's persecution of Catholic converts, whose welfare was a stated aim of French overseas policy. The Nguyen dynasty's repeated refusal to establish diplomatic relations and the violently anti-Christian policies of the emperors Minh Mang (1820- 41), Thieu Tri (1841-47), and Tu Duc (1848-83) impelled the French to engage in gunboat diplomacy that resulted, in 1862, in the establishment of French dominion over Saigon and over the three eastern provinces of the Cochinchina (Mekong Delta) region.

In the view of the government in Paris, Cambodia was a promising backwater. Persuaded by a missionary envoy to seek French protection against both the Thai and the Vietnamese, King Ang Duong invited a French diplomatic mission to visit his court. The Thai, however, pressured him to refuse to meet with the French when they finally arrived at Udong in 1856. The much-publicized travels of the naturalist Henri Mouhot, who visited the Cambodian court, rediscovered the ruins at Angkor, and journeyed up the Mekong River to the Laotian kingdom of Luang Prabang from 1859 to 1861, piqued French interest in the kingdom's alleged vast riches and in the value of the Mekong as a gateway to China's south-western provinces. In August 1863, the French concluded a treaty with Ang Duong's successor, Norodom (1859-1904). This agreement afforded the Cambodian monarch French protection (in the form of a French official called a *résident*--in French resident) in exchange for giving the French rights to explore and to exploit the kingdom's mineral and forest resources. Norodom's coronation, in 1864, was an awkward affair at which both French and Thai representatives officiated. Although the Thai attempted to thwart the expansion of French influence, their own influence over the monarch steadily dwindled. In 1867 the French concluded a treaty with the Thai that gave the latter control of Battambang Province and of Siemreap Province in exchange for their renunciation of all claims of suzerainty over other parts of Cambodia. Loss of the northwestern provinces deeply upset Norodom, but he was beholden to the French for sending military aid to suppress a rebellion by a royal pretender.

In June 1884, the French governor of Cochinchina went to Phnom Penh, Norodom's capital, and demanded approval of a treaty with Paris that promised far-reaching changes such as the abolition of slavery, the institution of private land ownership, and the establishment of French *résidents* in provincial cities. Mindful of a French gunboat anchored in the river, the king reluctantly signed the agreement. Local elites opposed its provisions, however, especially the one dealing with slavery, and they fomented rebellions throughout the country during the following

year. Though the rebellions were suppressed, and the treaty was ratified, passive resistance on the part of the Cambodians postponed implementation of the reforms it embodied until after Norodom's death.

The Vietnamese had been expelled, but continuous warfare had taken its toll. The Khmers were exhausted. A plague swept the capital, exacerbating the woes. Cambodia was on her knees: spent, and at the completely mercy of her neighbors. She was saved by France.²⁸

Colonial Cambodia

In October of 1887, the French announced the formation of the Union Indochinoise (Indochinese Union), which at that time comprised Cambodia, already an autonomous French possession, and the three regions of Vietnam (Tonkin, Annam, and Cochinchina. In 1893, Laos was annexed after the French defeated Siam in a war and took the territory from them.

Cambodia's chief official during the French colonial occupation, the only person responsible to the governor general of the Indochinese Union and who was appointed directly by the Ministry of Marine and Colonies in Paris was the colonial official known as the Résident Supérieur (Resident General). Residents, or local governor generals, were posted in all the provincial centers, or at that time, Battambang, Pursat, Odong, and Siem Reap. Phnom Penh was under the direct administration of the resident general.

The resident general held considerable power, but the person in the position frequently wanted more. In 1897, the ruling Resident General complained to Paris that the current king of Cambodia, King Norodom was no longer fit to rule and asked for permission to assume the king's powers to collect taxes, issue degrees, and even appoint royal officials and choose crown princes. From that time, Norodom and the future kings of Cambodia were figureheads and merely were patrons of the Buddhist religion in Cambodia and viewed as god-kings by the peasant population. All other power was in the hands of the Resident General and the colonial bureaucracy. Nonetheless, this bureaucracy was formed mostly of French officials, and the only Asians freely permitted were ethnic Vietnamese, who were viewed as the dominant Asians in the Indochinese Union.²⁹

After Cambodia becomes a good sandwich on a silver plate between Siamese and Yuonese; who are the present warmongers and land plunderers of Cambodians? Why were Kambujadesa, Funan and Chenla of its past greatest glorious zenith rapidly effaced on the World Map like that? Who was in charge of torturing and killing Khmer victims during the French Colonial period? Who were behind the Gall Bladder harvesters? How many Khmer Rouge groups are there? How many Pol Pots are there? Who was behind Angkar Leu/Cap Tren? Who brutally forced

²⁸ Simon Ross: Subjugation of Cambodia (1983) P.12

²⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Cambodia

Cambodian refugees back into Cambodia from 1975 to 1979? Who secretly created Killing Fields in 1800-1845 and 1945 to present day in Khmer Krom, and in Kandal from 1975 to 1979 to brutally massacre more than 3 million innocent Cambodians, more than 460,000 lives again from 1979-1991 in Cambodia like that? Why are there so many and many Khmer refugees who are brutally dispersed to live everywhere on this planet so far so worse? Why are Cambodian lands getting shrank a little by little in the West “Siam” and in the East “Yuong” like that? Can the people in the outside world consider “Siamese and Yuonese” as the “Two civilized Nations” on the dead bodies of Khmers who were brutally butchered in the name of protecting of a tiny present-Cambodia? Who keep encroaching and plundering Cambodian lands so far so worse like that?