



## CAMBODIAN KILLING FIELDS

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**KEYWORDS :**

The Cambodia is known as Kampuchea earlier. We all know Angkor wat is the largest Vishnu temple in the world, built by suryvarman ii and Jayavarman VII. The khmers kings are treated equally with god . after their death their tombs were built there. Even know Angkor wat is a wonder on earth for its art and architecture. Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century " Demons" means "Rakshasa" born on Cambodian earth like Pol Pot and khmer rouge . They killed millions of people brutally without any sex differentiation like men , women and children they even cut the reproductive organs of Cambodian people during 1970s . It was an barbarian event happened at that time. This was completely a inhuman act and example for brutality violence . The term "killing fields" originally referred to the sites of mass genocide during Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime. The Cambodian journalist Dith Pran coined the term "killing fields" after his escape from the regime.

The paper is based on primary and secondary data the present paper focus its attention on the killing fields of Cambodia, the monument , museums, and sufferings of cambodian people in 1970s period and collected Haing S. Ngor's case study . we visited cambodia on December 2022 and visited all these places.

The Tuol Sleng Prison in Phnom Penh became a centre for mass murder, and there were rural sites in and around Phnom Penh referred to as the Killing Fields, which is also the title of a 1984 film that brought the plight of Khmer Rouge victims to worldwide attention where as huge number of people were executed. Millions of people living in Cambodia were killed during the brutal regime of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. Their bodies were buried in mass graves that became known as "killing fields." The phrase later became the title of a movie about the horrors of the Khmer Rouge era, The Killing Fields. Estimates of the total deaths resulting from Khmer Rouge policies, including death from disease and starvation, range from 1.7 to 2.5 million out of a 1975 population of roughly 8 million.

**MONUMENTS AND MUSEUM:**

The Choeung Ek is the best known monument of the Killing Fields. At present, it is the site of a Buddhist memorial to the victims, and Tuol Sleng has a museum commemorating the genocide. The memorial park at Choeung Ek has been built around the mass graves of many thousands of victims, most of whom were executed after interrogation at the S-21 Prison in Phnom Penh. The majority of those buried at Choeung Ek were Khmer Rouge killed during the purges within the regime. Many dozens of mass graves are visible above ground, many which have not been excavated yet. Commonly, bones and clothing surface after heavy rainfalls due to the large number of bodies still buried in shallow mass graves. It is not uncommon to run across the bones or teeth of the victims scattered on the surface as one tours the memorial park. If these are found, visitors are asked to notify a memorial park officer or guide. A survivor of the genocide, Dara Duong, founded The Killing Fields Museum in Seattle, US is known as wing luke museum.

The **Killing Fields** are a number of sites in Cambodia where collectively more than 1,000,000 people were killed and buried by the Communist Party of Kampuchea during Khmer Rouge rule of the country from 1975 to 1979, immediately after the end of the Cambodian Civil War (1970–1975). The mass killings were part of the broad, state-sponsored Cambodian genocide. Analysis of 20,000 mass grave sites by the DC-Cam Mapping Program and Yale University indicates at least 1,386,734 victims of execution. Estimates of the total deaths resulting from Khmer Rouge policies, including death from disease and starvation, range from 1.7 to 2.5 million out of a 1975 population of roughly 8 million. In 1979, Vietnam invaded Democratic Kampuchea and toppled the Khmer Rouge regime, ending the genocide. The remains of 8985 people, many of whom were bound and blindfolded, were exhumed in 1980 from mass graves in this one-time longan orchard; 43 of the 129 communal graves here have been left untouched. Fragments of human bone and bits of cloth are scattered around the disinterred pits. More than 8000 skulls, arranged by sex and age, are visible behind the clear glass panels of the **Memorial Stupa**, which was erected in 1988.

**Sufferings of the people cambodians:** we can say number of stories regarding killing fields. These are not myths and legends. These are real stories happened really in the modern era 1970-1975 at cambodia. One of the things that strikes you at the Killing Fields, on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, is how crude everything once was here – even the murders. Especially the murders. Ammunition was too expensive and in short supply so the people killed here were normally hacked to death with spades, machetes or even the spiked plants that grew nearby. The people killed here were not even worth the price of a bullet. The Killing Fields is part of the legacy left by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. When Pol Pot and his murderous organisation took control of the country, he tried to enforce his communist dream through a nightmare of fear and violence. Anyone with the ability to think for themselves was seen as a threat and he set out to eliminate them. Simply having a career as something like a lawyer, doctor, linguist or teacher was enough to mark you for death. That Pol Pot himself was once a teacher and spoke multiple languages was irrelevant in this brazen genocide. The Khmer Rouge regime arrested and eventually executed almost everyone suspected of connections with the former government or with foreign governments, as well as professionals and intellectuals. Ethnic Vietnamese, ethnic Thai, ethnic Chinese, ethnic Cham, Cambodian Christians, and Buddhist monks were the demographic targets of persecution. As a result, Pol Pot has been described as "a genocidal tyrant". Martin Shaw described the Cambodian genocide as "the purest genocide of the Cold War era".

The story of this brutality started in 1975 when Khmer Rouge Army led by Pol Pot, a Cambodian Communist Revolutionary, took over the control of the capital, Phnom Penh and slowly all Cambodia. After getting the control of all Cambodia, he imposed Year Zero Policy in the country, which he renamed as Kampuchea. The idea behind Year Zero was that everything, related to daily life, habit, work, culture, tradition or whatever

practices were there in the society would be destroyed to start a new life from the scratch. Khmer Rouge regime forced people to move out from the city in to the agricultural fields. The reason given to them behind that mass evacuation was the suspected bomb threats from The US Bomber Aircraft and they were also told that the evacuation was only temporary. They were advised to move out without taking much belongings as they were supposed to return in just 2-3 days. But whoever evacuated their houses, never came back again. Almost all of Phnom Penh city was deserted and people were forced to work in the Cambodian Fields, where they were treated badly and tortured heavily. Khmer Rouge targeted every people in the society who had some sort of intellectual ability or professional education. They looked out for musicians, writers, doctors, lawyers, teachers etc and killed each and every person. and their criteria of finding such people were also amazing, for example: . People who wore glasses, must be literate. People who had smooth hands, must be educated because if they worked in the fields, their hands would be rough. Pol pot officially stepped down as leader of khmer rouge in 1985 and it was declined party. The last khmer rouge leader Ta Mok surrendered in 1999 Pol pot died in 1998. There was prosecution for crimes against humanity with the assistance of UN tribunal and the criminals were sentenced.

**Haing S. Ngor**, (born March 22, 1940, Samrong Young, Cambodia—died February 26, 1996, Los Angeles, California, U.S.), Cambodian physician and actor best known for his role in the movie *The Killing Fields* (1984), which depicted the brutal Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia that Ngor himself had lived through. In 1985 Ngor won the Academy Award for best supporting actor for his performance, becoming just the second nonprofessional actor (after Harold Russell in 1947) to win an acting Oscar. Ngor was born in Samrong Young to a Chinese Khmer family. He became an obstetrician and gynecologist and practiced in the country's capital, Phnom Penh. In 1975 the radical communist movement known as the Khmer Rouge forced the Cambodian government from power (after thrusting the country into a civil war in 1970), taking over Phnom Penh and deporting civilians from the city and into forced-labour camps. During the next four years under Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, an estimated 1.5 million (and possibly up to 2 million) Cambodians were killed, and many of the country's professional and technical class were exterminated. The sites of these mass killings became known as "the killing fields." Ngor and his wife, Chang My Huoy, were among those sent to forced-labour camps. Ngor pretended to be a taxi driver despite enduring torture to coerce him to confess his true livelihood, because intellectuals were being executed. He had to hide the fact that he was a physician even when his wife was dying in childbirth (neither she nor the child survived). After the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia in 1979, Ngor escaped to Thailand with his niece and worked as a doctor in refugee camps before moving to the United States the next year. He was working as a job counselor for refugees in Los Angeles when he was chosen for the role in *The Killing Fields*, despite having no previous acting experience.

In *The Killing Fields*, Ngor portrayed Dith Pran (1942–2008), a Cambodian photojournalist who acted as assistant to American *New York Times* correspondent Sydney Schanberg from 1972 to 1975 as they covered the Cambodian civil war. Dith risked his life to save Western journalists' lives when the Khmer Rouge seized power in 1975, but the journalists in turn failed in their attempt to get him out of the country with them. He was taken prisoner, tortured, and put to work as a farm labourer, nearly starving in conditions of virtual slavery before liberation by invading Vietnamese forces in early 1979. Ngor called upon his own struggles to survive in Cambodia to portray Dith, resulting in a nuanced, widely-praised performance that earned him multiple critics' awards and a Golden Globe in addition to the Academy Award. After his

Oscar win, Ngor appeared in a few other films, most notably Oliver Stone's *Heaven and Earth* (1993), as well as in several television shows. Among his humanitarian efforts, he lectured widely and helped form two organizations that aided still-displaced Cambodian refugees. He also became active in the campaign to bring those who conducted the massacres to justice. Ngor's autobiography, *A Cambodian Odyssey* (republished as *Survival in the Killing Fields*), written with Roger Warner, was first published in 1987. Ngor was shot to death on February 25, 1996, in Los Angeles while being robbed outside his home.

#### CONCLUSION:

cambodian angkor wat is a wonder on earth. It is well known for largest Hindu Vishnu temple. But in 1970s it was well known for the sufferings of the cambodian people. It was a brutality evidence of khmer rouge during Pol Pot regime . Choeunq Ek monument is memorable for killing fields. Really a real hero in killing field Haing S.Ngor has experienced the brutality of khmer rouge and he was escaped to US. He acted as a hero in the killing fields film and once again he was a hero to the power of hero in the eyes of the people for ever and ever even though he was no more.

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