

The 48th Anniversary of the Kampuchean Revolution

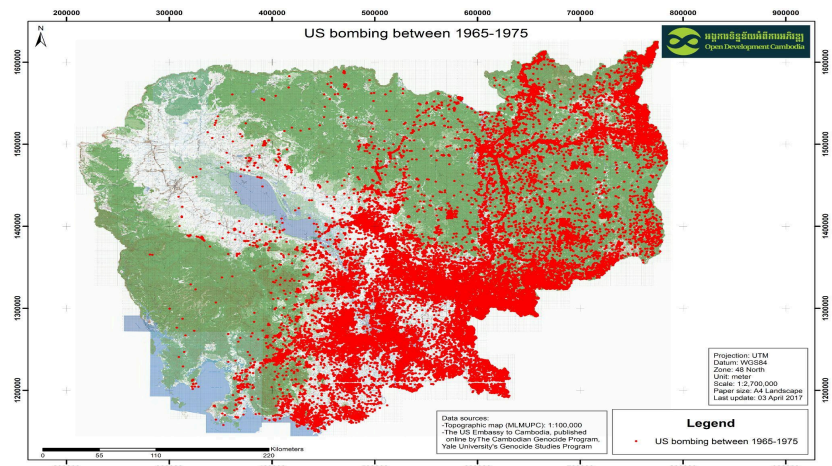
The Victory of the Kampuchean Revolution is a Great Victory Shared by the World's Oppressed and Exploited Majority!

Comrades, I wanted to share a few brief words on today's present historic occasion:

Today is April 17th, 2023, marking the 48th anniversary of victory of the Kampuchean revolution and the founding of the republic of Democratic Kampuchea by the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) - more commonly known as the Khmer Rouge. On April 17th, 1975, the victorious soldiers of the Kampuchean People's War successfully took the nation's capital, Phnom Penh, signaling the liberation of the entire country and the defeat of the US imperialists and the traitorous Lon Nol puppet clique.

In an effort to achieve its hegemonic ambitions of domination in Indochina, the US imperialists secretly, and illegally, invaded Cambodia, and began wide scale bombing against the sovereign, neutral and independent country. US imperialism, in its pursuit of global exploitation, commenced a genocidal campaign of extermination against the people of Kampuchea. In an attempt to achieve its goal of controlling Indochina by employing the most ruthless methods imaginable, the United States unleashed one of the most barbaric displays of wanton destruction and savage killing the world has ever seen.

During the years 1970-73 alone, the United States dropped an estimated 500 thousand tons of bombs on the country - more than three times the amount dropped on Japan during



WW2. By 1975 the US war against Cambodia killed an estimated 600 thousand people. The country was left in such an unimaginable state of devastation as a result, that the US State Department estimated that as many as 1 million Cambodians would likely die in the eventual aftermath, from conditions such as famine, disease, starvation, or poisoning from chemical weapons such as Agent Orange. Describing the horrific conditions in Phnom Penh before liberation - whose population of 600 thousand had been bloated to about 4 to 5 times that number from the amount of peasant refugees fleeing the countryside to escape the bombing - Porter and Hilderbrand from their book "Starvation and Revolution" quoted New York Times journalist Sydney Schanberg as saying:

"The children gathered by the dozens around a Western newsman. . . . Some have swollen bellies. Some are shrunken. A 10 year-old girl has dehydrated to the size of a 4-year-old. Harsh bronchial coughs come from their throats, marking the beginnings of pneumonia and tuberculosis. All have dysentery. Their noses run continuously. Their skins have turned scaly. Every scratch on their legs and arms becomes an ulcer."



Chinese revolutionary and founder of the People's Republic of China, Chairman Mao Zedong said: *"Historically, all reactionary forces on the verge of extinction invariably conduct a last desperate struggle against the revolutionary forces"*.

Hence the imperialist's policy of subjugation of Southeast Asia culminated in the staging of a US sponsored military coup by the reactionary general Lon Nol, on March 18th of 1970. But the US's aggression did not go unchallenged. The imperialists and their lackeys overestimated their own strength and underestimated the strength of the Kampuchean people, who have a long national tradition of resisting foreign domination. Within 5 days of the reactionary coup d'etat, the CPK, together with the

progressive and revolutionary forces of the country, formed a United Front - the National United Front of Kampuchea (NUFK). With only minor foreign support and no weapons, the NUFK organized in the countryside to free Kampuchea from imperialist subjugation.

As the general of the People's Liberation Army Lin Biao said, in his 1965 "Long Live the Victory of People's War!" speech: *"The arsenals of the imperialists always provide the oppressed peoples and nations with arms."*

The ideological key to the CPK's victory was their adherence to an independent party line. The CPK resolved in its determination to wage revolutionary armed struggle - to wage People's War - as the sole means for the country's salvation; going against the ill intentioned advice of the Communist Party of Vietnam who said to "lay down your arms". As it was put simply in the "Black Paper":

"If the Party had not led the armed struggle, Kampuchea's revolution would have been condemned to disappear sooner or later. If it had led only the political struggle, the enemy would certainly have destroyed all its revolutionary bases."

Guided by the principle of independence, sovereignty, and self reliance (*klouon opatham klouon*), and united with the masses of the Kampuchean people, the CPK launched a People's War against the imperialists and their running dogs, the traitorous Lon Nol clique. After 5 years of waging an intense and arduous armed struggle, the CPK swept away the last of the reactionary forces of the Lon Nol puppet clique, held up in their isolated urban stronghold of Phnom Penh, where they had hoarded millions of dollars of aid for themselves. On April 17th, 1975, the CPK entered the capital victorious to rejoicing crowds, having succeeded in fully liberating the entire country.

DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA



WAGING PEOPLE'S WAR

A new stage in the history of the Kampuchean people had begun. April 17th, 1975, marked the end of the era of savage imperialist oppression and slavery, and the beginning of a new era of independence and peaceful development. The Kampuchean revolution was the greatest victory in the history of the Khmer people and nation, and had borne out the same historical proof that Lin Biao had spoken of when he declared: *“History has proved and will go on proving that people's war is the most effective weapon against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys.”*



The victory of the Kampuchean revolution is the common held victory of the people of the world, and is of massive historical significance for the world's oppressed and exploited majority. Lin Biao said: *“The contradiction between the revolutionary peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the imperialists headed by the United States is the principal contradiction in the contemporary world.”* Lin Biao's words remain true to this day. The main divide that shapes our world is between the exploiter countries versus the exploited countries - the first versus the third world. The imperialists of the world are continuously waging a reactionary war against the people's of the third world and their revolutionary movements. It is in the light of the principal contradiction in our world today that the victory of the Kampuchean revolution assumes such far reaching importance.

By relying on the masses and waging people's war, the Kampuchean revolution is living proof that a small country can defeat a big country. The Kampuchean

revolution has shown that it's the people, not the imperialists, who are really powerful. Or as Mao put it, it is not the people who fear US imperialism, but rather *"it is U.S. imperialism which fears the people of the world. ... A weak nation can defeat a strong, a small nation can defeat a big. The people of a small country can certainly defeat aggression by a big country, if only they dare to rise in struggle, dare to take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of their country. This is a law of history."*

The victory of the Kampuchean revolution is a shining example to the world's exploited majority, that a small, weak, and oppressed country can defeat a big, strong and powerful country, and that if they dare to struggle they can overcome all obstacles and achieve great victories. As Mao Zedong famously said, *"small forces linked with the people become strong, while big forces opposed to the people become weak."* This is an irrefutable law of history. The history of the course of revolutions the world over attests to this great truth.

Comrades, we live in a world of anti-communist psychological warfare; a world in which the capitalists have brainwashed even the exploited into fearing the very revolutionary science that can bring about their emancipation. Engels said *"The bourgeoisie turns everything into a commodity, hence also the writing of history. It is part of its being, of its condition for existence, to falsify all goods: it falsified the writing of history. And the best — paid historiography is that which is best falsified for the purposes of the bourgeoisie."*

Given such a striking blow against US imperialism, it is to be expected that the falsifiers of history would pour heaps of lies and slanders on the Kampuchean revolution in order to reinforce imperial ideology. As it was put quite simply by Mike Elly in an article from "Revolutionary Worker" (RCP): *"Pol Pot kicked the U.S. imperialists out of Cambodia. And that's why they hate him"*

Bourgeois historians in the service of imperialism have spent decades minimizing or excising any mention of the role and responsibility the crimes of the United States played in wreaking destruction to Cambodia and leaving the country in a state of utter devastation. Shifting the entire focus away from the US, the legions of imperial ideologues in the western press and academia in general have convinced the public at large that the sole entity which bears the totality of guilt is the Khmer Rouge. Their approach is clear: When it comes to the alleged crimes

of official enemies; lies, distortions and barefaced historical revisionism are not only acceptable but unquestioningly regarded as “truth”. When it comes to crimes committed by the favored state itself; silence, denial, or shameless justification. By vilifying Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, the US effectively slams the door on any recognition or admission of guilt for their genocidal imperialist crimes. In the words of Porter and Hilderbrand: (the United States) *“needed to ensure that there would be a high level of moral indignation directed at the new Cambodian government in order to eliminate from public debate both the positive lessons of the Cambodian revolutionary experience and the U.S. government’s own guilt for crimes against Cambodia”*

If the Cambodian genocide tribunal had any serious commitment to international law, they would have put Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger and all the other US presidents and cabinets on trial for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity which they committed during their war of aggression against the people of Indochina, instead of prosecuting the octogenarian ex-leaders of a revolutionary group which fought to kick the imperialists out of their country and actually defeated them. The US imperialist’s crimes are still felt by the people of Indochina to this day: by the children born with deformities and birth defects from Agent Orange; by those who died from starvation and malnutrition; by the mothers who died during childbirth; by those maimed or killed each year by unexploded ordnances; by those who were left burnt by napalm; by those who lost their homes their family members their children and their unborn babies; and on and on, the inhumanity continues.



Tragically, in the world we live in today, no justice was served for these victims. Instead, Cambodia today is expected to pay 100s of millions of dollars worth of

debts incurred during the US's war against their country. Speaking on the injustice done on to the people of Indochina by the United States, Noam Chomsky in his book "At War with Asia" wrote the following:

".. the architects of this new Disaster in Cambodia will not pay the costs for their blundering aggressiveness. Perhaps someday they will acknowledge their "honest errors" in their memoirs, speaking of the burdens of world leadership and the tragic irony of history. Their victims, the peasants of Indo China, will write no memoirs and will be forgotten. They will join the countless millions of earlier victims of tyrants and oppressors."



Lenin called imperialism, moribund capitalism; capitalism in its monopoly stage; capitalism that is dying and decaying. Lenin therefore declared that imperialism is the eve of the proletarian revolution. The dialectical laws of the universe are incontrovertible. Everything in the world is subject to change. One divides into two; the old gives birth to the new; and revolution is still the main trend in the world today!



On today's historic occasion, let us pay homage to heroic martyrs of the Kampuchean People's War who were willing to brave all sacrifices by learning from the from both the accomplishments and mistakes of the Kampuchean

experience in the service of the present revolutionary movement, so that we may achieve still greater victories in the years of struggle ahead. It is in this way that we can best remember their struggle.

Long live the glorious April 17 1975!
Long live the Kampuchean revolution!
Death to US imperialism!

