

[PDF] Cambodia's Curse: The Modern History Of A Troubled Land

Joel Brinkley - pdf download free book



Books Details:

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Author: Joel Brinkley
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Description:

From **Publishers Weekly** Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Brinkley takes on the pricey pitfalls of nation building and the labyrinth of centuries-old political corruption in this riveting piece of literary reportage. At once a tale of human tragedy and a primer on the future of Western engagement with developing—and autocratic—countries, the book offers a rare look inside a country beleaguered by poverty and imprisoned by patronage and venal leadership since the 13th century; traumatized by

colonialism, Pol Pot's brutal Khmer Rouge, and the genocide he unleashed (and later by Vietnam, which overthrew the Khmer Rouge in 1979). Brinkley is merciless in his critique of both Cambodia's leadership as well as the folly of donor countries that placed faith in the U.N. to bring Cambodia into a modern, democratic era. He expresses empathy for "the most abused people in the world," many of whom are in the grip of post-traumatic stress disorders after Pol Pot's reign of terror, but he saves his mercenary eye for the corrupt leaders, including present dictator Hun Sen, who continue to suppress and exploit the country's resources and young, vital population. (Apr.)

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Review

***Kirkus*, February 15, 2011**

"An excellent...account of a country whose historic poverty, exacerbated by the Vietnam War, remains remarkably unchanged."

Publishers Weekly

"A riveting piece of literary reportage."

Booklist

"A heartbreaking but vital status report on a people who deserve far better."

***Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2011**

"Brinkley cuts a clear narrative path through the bewildering, cynical politics and violent social life of one of the worlds most brutalized and hard-up countries."

***San Francisco Chronicle*, April 16, 2011**

"As a young reporter, Brinkley won a Pulitzer Prize in 1980 for his coverage of the Cambodian refugee crisis. Returning to the region 30 years later, Brinkley - now a professor of journalism at Stanford - chose his subject well...[he] admirably...demonstrates that Hun Sen's administration has been a disaster for many Cambodians."

***The Wall Street Journal*, May 19, 2011**

"Illuminating...Mr. Brinkley won the Pulitzer Prize in 1980 for covering Cambodian refugees, and he weaves the details of the nation's underbelly into a compelling argument, interviewing powerful figures and foreign officials involved in politics, courts, hospitals, land development, forests and schools."

***The American Interest*, July/August, 2011**

"Compelling... a revealing tale of delusion and corruption told with considerable panache."

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