Did the Khmer Rouge get away with committing genocide?
BACKGROUND
In 1975 the Khmer Rouge led a socialist movement that assumed power over the country of Cambodia. In an effort to return the country to its past, the Khmer Rouge emptied Cambodia's cities, forced its people into labor on farms, and rejected Western ways. The Khmer Rouge was also responsible for a massive genocide that took the lives of almost two million people. In 2011 some of the individuals considered to be responsible for those deaths have been brought to trial.

ESSAY QUESTION
Use what you learned in class, as well as evidence from the source documents to answer the question below.

Did the Khmer Rouge get away with committing genocide?
Document #1

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 260A (III) Article 2

... Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

(a) Killing members of the group;

(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;

(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;

(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;

(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

SOURCE: The International Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, December 9th 1948

GUIDING QUESTION:
Does this source support the idea that the Khmer Rouge committed genocide, and then got away with it? Why, or why not?
Cambodia’s Pol Pot Reported Dead

April 15, 1998 – Staff Writer

BANGKOK, Thailand (CNN) -- Pol Pot, the ousted leader of Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge rebels, is dead, according to Thai military sources.

He was said to have died from a heart attack. Khmer Rouge forces sent a message reporting Pol Pot's death to Thai military officials at the Cambodian-Thai border, CNN's Tom Mintier says.

...Cambodian forces and Khmer Rouge defectors had been seeking to capture Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge remnants, recently advancing toward Cambodia's northern mountains along the Thai border to hunt for them.

The United States recently had consulted Thailand, China and other countries about efforts to capture Pol Pot and put him on trial before an international court.

SOURCE: CNN.com
[http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/asiapcf/9804/15/pol.pot.915pm/]

GUIDING QUESTION:
Does this source support the idea that the Khmer Rouge committed genocide, and then got away with it? Why, or why not?
GUIDING QUESTION:
Does this source support the idea that the Khmer Rouge committed a genocide, and then got away with it? Why, or why not?
Khmer Rouge leaders go on trial in Cambodia charged with genocide
By Peter Walker November 21st, 2011

Three surviving members of the Khmer Rouge leadership have gone on trial at a UN-backed [courtroom] in Cambodia, accused of playing a key role in the death of at least 1.7 million people during one of the 20th century's most brutal regimes.

In their opening statements, prosecutors emphasized the chaos and horror that overran Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge's brief, paranoid and bloody rule from 1975 to 1979.

"Every Cambodian who was alive during this period was affected by the criminal system of oppression which these accused put in place. The death toll is staggering," Chea Leang, the Cambodian co-prosecutor, told a packed tribunal in the capital, Phnom Penh.

Facing charges including crimes against humanity, genocide, religious persecution, homicide and torture, are three of the Khmer Rouge's top leaders under the supreme ruler, Pol Pot, who died in 1998. Nuon Chea, 85, was the Khmer Rouge's chief ideologist and "Brother Number Two" to Pol Pot; Khieu Samphan, 80, served as president; and 86-year-old Ieng Sary was the regime's foreign minister. All showed little reaction as the charges were read out.

SOURCE: The Guardian Online (United Kingdom)
[http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/nov/21/khmer-rouge-leaders-trial-cambodia]

GUIDING QUESTION:
Does this source support the idea that the Khmer Rouge committed genocide, and then got away with it? Why, or why not?
Life term for Cambodia Khmer Rouge jailer Duch
By Staff Writer, February 3rd, 2012

...Duch, who was born as Kaing GuekEav, was jailed in 2010 for his role in running a notorious Cambodian prison where thousands of inmates were killed.

Prosecutors argued that his sentence was too lenient. Many survivors were outraged when he was sentenced to 35 years, because he could be free in 18 years given time already served.

"The crimes by [Duch] were undoubtedly among the worst in recorded human history. They deserve the highest penalty available," Judge Kong Srim said.

"We can say that justice has now been served after more than 30 years," Chea Leang said. "To us and to the victims, this is a great success."

Duch's case is the first to be concluded by the court against perpetrators of crimes committed during four years of Khmer Rouge rule in the late 1970s.

SOURCE: BBC News Online (United Kingdom)

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...Yet most Cambodians... fear that the worst perpetrators won’t be punished, that only a small part of the whole story will be told, and that the government will interfere with the outcome.

...They see the court’s mandate, which limits prosecutions to a handful of top leaders, as too narrow, and are wary of meddling by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

[Survivors I interviewed] worry about a lot of things, but they are most concerned about perpetrators escaping punishment. Ta Mok, nicknamed “The Butcher,” faced likely indictment before dying of natural causes last year, but they do not blame him solely for the suffering their community endured.

“Ta Mok never directly killed anyone himself. The local cadres actually carried out these killings,” [A survivor] said. “Some of them are dead, and maybe others were granted amnesty or given deals by the government.”

SOURCE: The American Scholar Online
[http://theamericanscholar.org/letter-from-cambodia/#.U3umJvldUnM]
**Essay Question:** Did the Khmer Rouge get away with committing genocide?

**ESSAY RULES:** You are writing a 5 PARAGRAPH essay that uses evidence from the Cambodia document packet to make an argument. Credit will be given to essays that accomplish each item on the checklists below while using AT LEAST FOUR documents as evidence. 25 POINTS TOTAL

**INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH: 3 Points**

- I provided AT LEAST THREE sentences of background information on the subject(s) of the essay.
- I answered the essay question and explained my answer completely. **THIS IS MY INTRODUCTION THESIS.**

**SUPPORTING PARAGRAPH #1: 6 Points**

- I used a transition word or term to start the paragraph.
- My first sentence introduced the topic of the rest of the paragraph, and explains how this topic supports my INTRODUCTION THESIS.
- I identified the date, author and title of the document(s) I used.
- I used a quote from the document(s) that included quotation marks or described the document(s) if it was a chart, photograph, or political cartoon.
- I explained the meaning of the document(s) I used.
- I explained how the document(s) support what I said in my INTRODUCTION THESIS.
- I wrote a “NEXT LEVEL” paragraph that used academic vocabulary & discussed the bias of the source.

**SUPPORTING PARAGRAPH #2: 6 Points**

- I used another transition word or term to start the paragraph.
- My first sentence introduced the topic of the rest of the paragraph, and explains how this topic supports my INTRODUCTION THESIS.
- I identified the date, author and title of the document(s) I used.
- I used a quote from the document(s) that included quotation marks or described the document(s) if it was a chart, photograph, or political cartoon.
- I explained the meaning of the document(s) I used.
- I explained how the document(s) support what I said in my INTRODUCTION THESIS.
- I wrote a “NEXT LEVEL” paragraph that used academic vocabulary & discussed the bias of the source.
**CONTRADICTING ARGUMENT PARAGRAPH: 6 Points**

I used another transition word or term to start the paragraph.

My first sentence discusses why some people might disagree with my INTRODUCTION THESIS.

I identified the date, author and title of the document(s) I used to show why some people disagree with my INTRODUCTION THESIS.

I used a quote from the document(s) that included quotation marks or described the document(s) if it was a chart, photograph, or political cartoon.

I explained the meaning of the document(s) I used.

I explained why the document(s) did not change the argument I made in my INTRODUCTION THESIS.

I wrote a “NEXT LEVEL” paragraph that used academic vocabulary & discussed the bias of the source.

**CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH: 4 points**

I used another transition word or term to start the paragraph.

My first sentence re-states (in different words) my INTRODUCTION THESIS.

I summarized the main idea of both supporting paragraphs AND the contradicting argument paragraph.

I explained why the essay question is important.

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**Essay Question:** Did the Khmer Rouge get away with committing genocide?

**THESIS:** Answer the essay question by making a claim, and explain your answer.

EX: “I believe the Khmer Rouge did not get away with genocide because according to television, the criminals all went to jail, and television never ever ever lies.”

**MY THESIS:**

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