

# CAMBODIA

## (Kingdom of Cambodia)



## 1. Background information



Cambodia, officially the republic of Cambodia is a country on the Indochinese mainland of Southeast Asia. Cambodia is largely a land of plains and great rivers and lies amid important overland and river trade routes linking China to India and Southeast Asia. The influences of many Asian cultures, alongside those of France and the United States, can be seen in the capital, Phnom Penh, one of a handful of urban centers in the largely rural country.

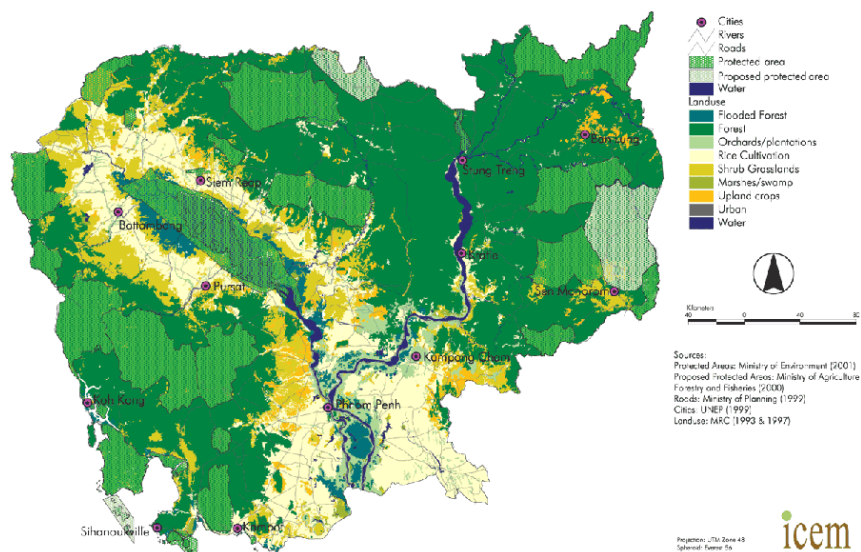
For 2,000 years Cambodia's civilization absorbed influences from India and China and, in turn, transferred them to other Southeast Asian civilizations. From the Hindu-Buddhist kingdoms of Funan and Chenla (1st–8th century) through the classical age of the Angkor period (9th–15th century), it held sway over

territories that are now part of Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos. The Khmer (Cambodian) empire reached its apex in the 12th century, a time marked by the construction of the massive temple complexes known as Angkor Wat and Bayon and the imperial capital of Angkor Thom. Following 400 years of decline, Cambodia became a French colony and during the 20th century experienced the turmoil of war, occupation by the Japanese, postwar independence, and political instability. Between 1975 and 1979 the country was devastated by the reign of the Khmer Rouge, a rural communist guerrilla movement. During the Khmer Rouge's period of power, at least 1.5 million Cambodians were killed or died, a monumental tragedy from which the country still suffers.

Cambodia began the process of recovery under the Vietnam-backed regime of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (1979–89), and in the 1990s it regained political autonomy, reestablished a constitutional government, and subsequently instituted free elections. The Cambodian economy has steadily improved, and the country seems to be living by the words of the Cambodian proverb, "Fear not the future, weep not for the past."

## 1.1) Land

Cambodia, about one-third the size of France and somewhat larger than the U.S. state of Missouri, is bordered to the west and northwest by Thailand, to the northeast by Laos, to the east and southeast by Vietnam, and to the southwest by the Gulf of Thailand. The country's maximum extent is about 280 miles (450 km) from north to south and 360 miles (580 km) from east to west.



## 1.2) Capital

Cambodia, the capital is Phnom Penh.



## 1.3) System of government

Government of Cambodia is democracy have king is a head of the country.

## 1.4) King

King phrabaromnath Narodom Seehamunee



## 1.5) Prime Minister

Majesty Prime Minister Decho Hun Sen



## 1.6) Currency

Cambodia currency is the Cambodian Riel (KHR) is the official currency of Cambodia. 130.69 Cambodian Riel = 1 Thai Baht



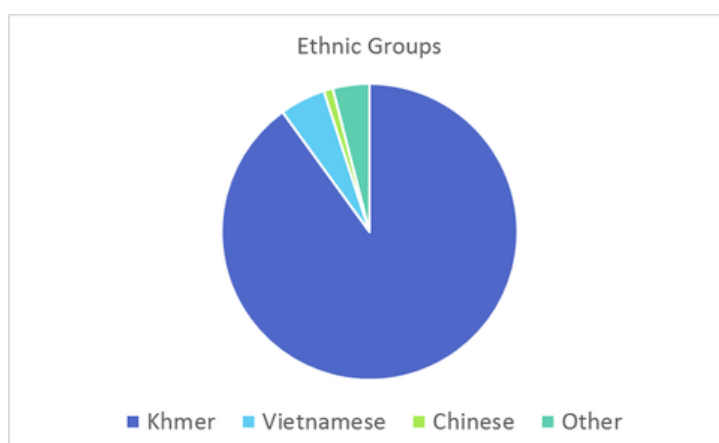
## 1.7) Climate

Cambodia's climate is governed by the monsoon winds, which define two major seasons. From mid-May to early October, the strong prevailing winds of the southwest monsoon bring heavy rains and high humidity. From early November to mid-March, the lighter and drier winds of the northeast monsoon bring variable cloudiness, infrequent precipitation, and lower humidity. The weather between these seasons is transitional. Maximum temperatures are high throughout the year, ranging from about 82 to 83 °F (28 °C) in January, the coolest month, to about 95 °F (35 °C) in April. Annual precipitation varies considerably throughout the country, from more than 200 inches (5,000 mm) on the seaward slopes of the southwestern highlands to about 50–55 inches (1,270–1,400 mm) in the central lowland region. Three-fourths of the annual rainfall occurs during the months of the southwest monsoon.

Season	Month	Min. Temp.	Max Temp.	Rainy Days
Dry Season	January	19,7	32,0	0,8
	February	20,8	33	2,0
	March	26,1	34,6	3,8
	April	25,1	35,5	8,0
Rainy Season	May	25,4	35	17,2
	June	24,8	33,5	20
	July	24,8	32	21,8
	August	25,0	32,0	19,2
	September	24,5	32	21,4
	October	23,9	31,3	21,4
Dry Season	November	22,4	30,6	10,4
	December	20,3	31,0	3,0

## 1.8) Ethnic groups

The Khmer (Cambodians) account for the vast majority of the population, producing a homogeneity unique in Southeast Asia that has encouraged a strong sense of national identity. Ethnic minorities include Chinese, Vietnamese, Muslim Cham-Malays, Laotians, and various indigenous peoples of the rural highlands.



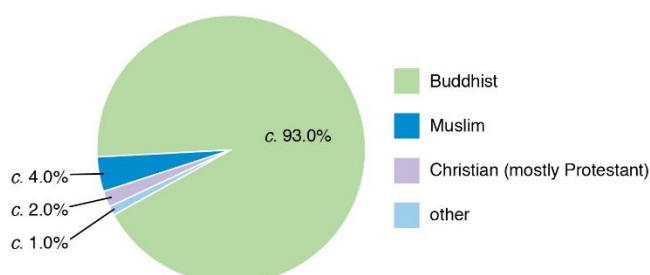
## 1.9) Languages

The Khmer language is one of the major tongues of the Mon-Khmer subfamily of the Austroasiatic language family and is spoken by nearly all people in Cambodia, including the Cham-Malay. Historically, a small number of people in Cambodia spoke Vietnamese and Chinese. The Katu, Mnong, and Stieng speak Mon-Khmer languages, while the Jarai and Rhadé speak languages of the Austronesian language family.

## 1.10) Religion

Most ethnic Khmer are Theravada (Hinayana) Buddhists (i.e., belonging to the older and more traditional of the two great schools of Buddhism, the other school being Mahayana). Until 1975 Buddhism was officially recognized as the state religion of Cambodia.

Religious affiliation (2009)



### 1.11) Economic

Even before 1975, Cambodia's economy was one of the least-developed in Southeast Asia. It depended heavily on two major products—rice and rubber—and consequently was vulnerable to annual fluctuations caused by vagaries in the weather and world market prices. Agriculture dominated the economy, with most rural families engaged in rice cultivation. Although the tradition of landownership was strong, family landholdings were relatively small, and the rural population was largely self-sufficient. Two and a half acres (one hectare) of rice paddy provided for the needs of a family of five people, and supplementary requirements were traditionally satisfied by fishing, cultivating fruit and vegetables, and raising livestock. Famine was rare in Cambodia, but the self-sufficiency of the rural family produced a conservatism that resisted government efforts before 1975 to modernize the country's agricultural methods.

The pro-Vietnamese government that came to power in 1979 dismantled the collectivized agriculture that had been savagely imposed on a national scale by Democratic Kampuchea in 1975–79, but partial collectivization remained an ideal of the new regime, as it did in neighbouring Vietnam, in an attempt to improve efficiency. Voluntary cooperative groupings called *krom samaki* subsequently replaced collective farms in many areas, but the vast majority of Cambodian farming continued to be carried out by family units growing crops for subsistence and small surpluses for cash or barter. A law enacted in 1989 permitted Cambodians to buy and sell real estate for the first time. An immediate effect of the law was a speculative boom in urban areas and an increase in investment, particularly in Phnom Penh. In rural areas laws were also implemented that restored traditional rights of land tenure and inheritance.

In 1992–93, during a brief United Nations protectorate, the economies of Phnom Penh and Bătdâmbâng were fueled by foreign speculation in land and short-term, foreign-financed construction. Tourism became (and has remained) a major source of national revenue, but the rural economy has continued to be hampered by poor communications, bad weather, widespread poverty and disease, and often outdated and inefficient farming techniques. Although per capita income has been rising, it has remained among the world's lowest.



The country's external debt also increased sharply during the 1990s, and foreign aid continues to be a major source of revenue. Most of the international donors, the leader of which is Japan, have used aid to pressure the Cambodian government to carry out reforms aimed at promoting economic development and democratization. Donors have targeted funding at particular areas such as refugee repatriation and resettlement, education and training, health and sanitation, agriculture, and community development. Creditors have rescheduled and in some cases canceled repayment of loans, but they have also cut aid disbursements when they have disagreed with government policies or actions.

### **1.12) Transportation and telecommunications**

Cambodia's inland waterways and road systems constitute the main transportation routes, although they are invariably affected during the rainy season, when floods cause heavy accumulations of silt and washouts. Railroads rank third in significance. Domestic shipping and civil air facilities are limited, and maritime commerce is carried out almost exclusively by foreign vessels.

The road system eventually surpassed the country's inland waterways as the principal means for moving cargo and passengers. The network was originally designed and constructed by the French during the protectorate period to link the agricultural hinterland with the port of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City, Viet.). Consequently, the system did not serve Cambodia as a whole. Extensive land tracts in the northern, northeastern, and southwestern parts of the country were without roads. Of the total road network, only a small portion has been paved; other roads have been surfaced with crushed stone, gravel, or laterite or have been simply graded without being paved.

Roads and bridges deteriorated sharply during the Democratic Kampuchea period and the civil war that followed. Funds and equipment for repairs were not available, and after 1979 most roads were mined or cut by guerrillas hostile to the government in Phnom Penh. Especially in the 1990s, repairing Cambodia's road network was a high priority for the United Nations and was a focus of foreign-aid efforts by other countries, especially Japan. The country's longest bridge, traversing the Sab River at Phnom Penh, was destroyed in 1975, rebuilt with Japanese assistance, and reopened in 1997. Cambodia's first bridge over the Mekong River was completed in 2001. Located about 45 miles (75 km) northeast

of Phnom Penh, it has greatly facilitated travel between the eastern and western parts of the country.

Cambodia has some 1,200 miles (1,900 km) of inland waterways, of which the great bulk are part of the Mekong and Tonle Sap systems. Phnom Penh, located on the Mekong River about 200 miles (320 km) from its mouth, can be reached by vessels with drafts of less than 13 feet (4 metres). North of Phnom Penh, the Mekong is navigable to Krâchéh for rivercraft, but rapids and winding channels in the section between Krâchéh and the border with Laos generally preclude commercial navigation.

Kâmpóng Saôm (Sihanoukville), on the Gulf of Thailand, is Cambodia's only maritime port. Completed in 1960, it can provide unrestricted anchorage for oceangoing ships. The port is of strategic importance to Cambodia, and the area has undergone considerable industrial development. A paved four-lane highway links Kâmpóng Saôm with Phnom Penh.

The railroad system is owned and operated by the Cambodian government. One line, completed prior to World War II, connects Phnom Penh with the Thai frontier and facilitates the movement of milled rice from the western provinces of Bătdâmbâng, Pôuthsăt, and Kâmpóng Chhnăng. Another line, completed in 1969, connects Phnom Penh with Kâmpóng Saôm.

Cambodia has two international airports, the newest of which opened in Siêmréab (Siem Reap) in 2002. In 2003 a new terminal was added to the older airport in Pochentong (near Phnom Penh). These facilities constitute the hubs of domestic, regional, and international service.

Telecommunications have been developing slowly in Cambodia. In regional comparisons, the country lags far behind its neighbours in the number of telephone main lines as a proportion of population and is near the bottom in the proportion of cellular phone users per capita. There are telephone exchange centres in all major towns, and the number of telephone main lines is increasing (though cellular phones now vastly outnumber telephone main lines). Internet usage is also increasing, but the number of people with access is still small.



## National Day of Remembrance (Cambodia)

The National Day of Remembrance. Formerly called the National Day of Hatred, which falls on May 20, is an annual event in Cambodia. It commemorates the Cambodian genocide of the Khmer Rouge regime that ruled the country between 1975 and 1979. It became a national holiday in 2018.[1]

The English name 'Day of Hatred' is somewhat of a mistranslation. The Khmer name, when instituted in 1983, was *Ti Veer Jrong Komhuoeng* ('Day of Tying Anger'). The name could also be translated as 'Day of Maintaining Rage