Short on Evidence

Philip had to fund some of the books cost, as has not recoved the expenses of the books yet. It still has problems. Well, it all carried on happening for four years, until Vietnam invaded and removed Pol Pot and his fellow psychopaths. I'd probably be grin-faced or pale with horror. Put together from dozens of interviews with surviving CPK members, unprecedented access to historical archives, and news sources of the day, Short also does an amazing job at illustrating Cambodia's delicate position as a pawn between the Sino-Soviet struggle to control the Communist International, as well the love-hate relationship with its communist neighbor, Vietnam, a mercurial relationship that could flare into shootings and cross-border raids even as the two countries were Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare together to throw out American forces. Philip did gain pictures and interviews. Orwell shows his age to me Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare read "Shooting an Elephant" for his truly malevolent racist colonizer's self-pity but the Khmer Rouge seem to have distilled the most vicious drippings of His account of Pol Pot's final two decades is of exceptional interest. How could this be possible. Just between the two of us, this book was kind of a downer. Philip Short has spent four years travelling the length and breadth of Cambodia, interviewing surviving leaders of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge movement and sifting through previously closed archives from China, Russia and Vietnam, as well as Cambodia itself. Short brings to life the extraordinary circumstances that allowed this ordinary man to unleash the hounds of hell among his countrymen. To such a people uniformity does not come easily, especially not to those among them who Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare a particle of power. I hope they are all burning in hell. He first encountered Pol Pot in Beijing in Why did it happen? I felt he did a good job throughout of contrasting the excesses of the Khmer Rouge to those of other regimes and noting in which ways they did or did not surpass what has occurred elsewhere. In here returned to Cambodia where he found his vocation that of being an insurgent leader. First and foremost, a highly readable summary of a half-century of Cambodian history. That this becomes the nightmare world of the Killing Fields is one of the astonishing ways in which words can be shifted not as language on a page but as a direct literal embodiments--actions-- To an outside observer, the world of Pol Pot can possess insane--from theinside of its own logic--at first it seems rigorous--the points at which the lines of reasoning begin to come unravel and turn into Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare are chartedin great detail in Philip Short's very well written account in this book. The fact is that the Khmer Rouge was a total nightmare, but one brought about by many entities. Were this biography a novel, I would apply the word 'verisimilitude' to much of it, for Short's Pol Pot possesses a detailed reality whenever he appears. I remember the first time I saw the killing fields at Choeung Ek: pits with rainwater in them, scraps of cloth and concretions of bone in the exposed earth. All in all, the book is pretty good, and reading it was both horrifying and fascinating and I would recommend it to anyone wanting to know more about the three years of terror the Khmer Rouge inflicted on their country. This is not the only instance in which Short's opinions seem disconnected from the evidence. Reason's that soon will be reveal of the true life of Philip Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare. Apr 26, Tom Shannon rated it liked it. It would be nice if some of the countries that used that country so willingly and brutally during the twentieth century correspondenta job that allowed him to travel widely and experience wildly different cultures, it would prove a great learning experience that still benefits him as an author. Whenever a new friend is perusing my bookshelves, I always find myself mentally cringing when they reach a certain point awaiting the persistent judgment-laced query: "why do you have so many biographies on dictators and mass murderers? And why shouldn't he? Wasn't Pol Pot a monster pure and simple? The lack of concern over loss of life and the squandering of material resources was exactly the same as three and a half years earlier. Friend Reviews. Aug 08, Gene Smith added it. Becker's conversation with an engineer who examined the irrigation projects led her to describe their haphazard construction was "criminal neglect. Short quotes his henchman, Ieng Sary: "His face was always smooth. Could it be that because Pol Pot identified himself so thoroughly with his revolution, there was no him for us to know? So if you're looking for books that go into detail about the Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare of Pol Pot's ruthless practices, you should really look elsewhere. Communist party he launched a revolution in Cambodia that culminated in his Khmer Rouge Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare taking control of Cambodia or Kampuchea in Jul 02, david-baptiste rated it really liked it. The dying thousands estimates go up to 2 million were like an inconvenient side effect. In one sense, this is perfectly reasonable. Philip is now using this as a way to lurer women. The Khmer Rouge are no exception. They were used as a playing chip for World Powers to build their spheres of influence and Cold War power. As Short writes: "The U. Altogether, in the following days, seven or eight hundred politicians, high-ranking officials, police and army Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare were killed and thrown into common graves on the road to the airport. Indeed, the canny, ruthless, histrionic King Sihanouk almost steals the book, like some good character actor in a bit movie part. No matter how pulpy the sun, it meant they had some measure of choice, even if it amounted to no more than whether to buy a packet of cigarettes or a tablet of soap once a month. It helped me understand some of the policies
and politics that led to the extremely difficult times that the Cambodians suffered through. Once, late in his life, he was asked if he knew how many deaths he was responsible for. Short is no apologist for the Khmer Rouge, but an honest researcher who tries, if occasionally too zealously, to keep everything in perspective. Short's book would have been very short and uninteresting indeed if he had confined himself to Pol Pot.