

Enemies of the People Viewing Guide

Directions: Watch the film clips and respond below. Use additional paper for your answers as needed.

The Executioners: Video Clip: “I Want You to Know the Exact Place”

1. What risks are these men taking by revealing their roles as executioners?
2. What do you think motivated them to kill?
3. Why would they come forward so many years later and explain their role in the genocide?
4. Do you think the men who did the actual killing should be held accountable for these murders when they were following orders from people higher in the regime? Why or why not?

Mid-level Commander: Video Clip: “We Had No Choice”

1. What do the people in the video mean by the phrase “find the solution”?
2. Who do the people in the video think should be held accountable for the killings?
3. The woman in the video says, “If we didn’t obey [our orders], we would have been killed... We felt pity for the victims, but what could we do? We had no choice.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.

Brother Number Two: Video Clip: “The Individual I Cast Aside”

1. Why does Nuon Chea think that killing those perceived to be against the regime was the only way to solve the “traitor problem”? How do you think his motivation for killing might have differed from that of the executioners or the mid-level commander?
2. Nuon Chea said if he had to choose between the nation and the individual, he would choose the nation. Which do you think is more important? Why?
3. Should someone like Nuon Chea, who ordered the killings but did not personally carry them out, be held accountable for the genocide in Cambodia? Explain.

Writing Activity

The video interviews seen in this lesson are from a project by journalist Thet Sambath, who spent a decade gaining the trust of those who committed the genocide in Cambodia so that details of what happened and why it happened could be recorded for both survivors and later generations. How might hearing the truth from the perpetrators help Cambodia heal from this tragic time period? Write a one-page paper that explains your thinking.