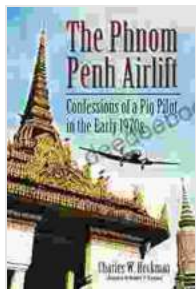


# The Phnom Penh Airlift: The Largest Humanitarian Airlift in History

In the waning days of the Vietnam War, as the Khmer Rouge regime closed in on the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, a desperate mass evacuation was launched to save the lives of thousands of refugees. The Phnom Penh Airlift, also known as Operation Babylift and Operation Eagle Pull, was the largest humanitarian airlift in history, involving the evacuation of over 300,000 people from the war-torn city.

The airlift was a joint effort between the United States, South Vietnam, and Cambodia, and was carried out over a period of just two months, from April to June 1975. The majority of those evacuated were civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. However, the airlift also evacuated a number of American citizens and foreign nationals who had been trapped in Phnom Penh.



## The Phnom Penh Airlift: Confessions of a Pig Pilot in the Early 1970s

by Charles W. Heckman

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 7225 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 241 pages

Paperback : 80 pages

Item Weight : 2.88 ounces

Dimensions : 4.72 x 0.19 x 7.48 inches



The airlift was a massive undertaking, and required the use of hundreds of aircraft, including both military and civilian planes. The United States Air Force played a major role in the airlift, providing the majority of the aircraft and personnel. The operation was also supported by the South Vietnamese Air Force and the Cambodian Air Force.

The airlift was not without its challenges. The Khmer Rouge forces were often close to the evacuation zone, and on several occasions, the aircraft were fired upon. In addition, the weather conditions were often poor, making it difficult to fly. However, despite these challenges, the airlift was ultimately a success, and over 300,000 people were evacuated from Phnom Penh.

The Phnom Penh Airlift was a remarkable achievement, and it saved the lives of thousands of people. The operation was a testament to the dedication and skill of the aircrew involved, and it remains the largest humanitarian airlift in history.

## **The Refugee Crisis in Cambodia**

The Cambodian Civil War began in 1970, when the Khmer Rouge, a communist rebel group, launched an insurgency against the government of Lon Nol. The war quickly descended into a brutal conflict, and by 1975, the Khmer Rouge controlled most of the country. As the Khmer Rouge closed in on Phnom Penh, a massive refugee crisis developed, as hundreds of thousands of people fled the fighting.

The United States and South Vietnam were concerned about the plight of the refugees, and they began planning for a mass evacuation. The Phnom Penh Airlift was the result of these planning efforts.

### **Operation Babylift**

Operation Babylift was the first phase of the Phnom Penh Airlift. The operation was launched on April 3, 1975, and it focused on the evacuation of orphaned children from Phnom Penh. Over 3,000 children were evacuated during Operation Babylift, and they were flown to orphanages in the United States and other countries.

Operation Babylift was a controversial operation, and it was later criticized for its lack of oversight and regulation. However, the operation did save the lives of thousands of children, and it played a significant role in the overall success of the Phnom Penh Airlift.

### **Operation Eagle Pull**

Operation Eagle Pull was the second phase of the Phnom Penh Airlift. The operation was launched on April 12, 1975, and it focused on the evacuation of American citizens and other foreign nationals from Phnom Penh. Over 7,000 people were evacuated during Operation Eagle Pull, including diplomats, journalists, and missionaries.

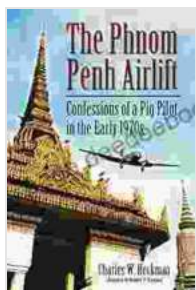
Operation Eagle Pull was a complex and dangerous operation. The Khmer Rouge forces were often close to the evacuation zone, and on several occasions, the aircraft were fired upon. However, despite these challenges, the operation was ultimately a success, and all of the Americans and other foreign nationals were evacuated from Phnom Penh.

## The Legacy of the Phnom Penh Airlift

The Phnom Penh Airlift was a significant event in the history of the Vietnam War. The airlift saved the lives of thousands of people, and it helped to end the war. The operation was a testament to the dedication and skill of the aircrew involved, and it remains the largest humanitarian airlift in history.

The legacy of the Phnom Penh Airlift is still felt today. The airlift helped to raise awareness of the plight of the Cambodian people, and it played a role in the development of international humanitarian law. The airlift also helped to establish the United States as a leader in humanitarian assistance, and it continues to be a model for future humanitarian airlifts.

The Phnom Penh Airlift was a remarkable achievement, and it saved the lives of thousands of people. The operation was a testament to the dedication and skill of the aircrew involved, and it remains the largest humanitarian airlift in history. The legacy of the Phnom Penh Airlift is still felt today, and it continues to be a model for future humanitarian airlifts.



### The Phnom Penh Airlift: Confessions of a Pig Pilot in the Early 1970s by Charles W. Heckman

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 7225 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 241 pages
Paperback	: 80 pages
Item Weight	: 2.88 ounces
Dimensions	: 4.72 x 0.19 x 7.48 inches

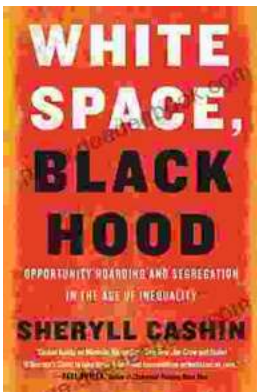
FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK



## Every Cowgirl Loves Rodeo: A Western Adventure

Every Cowgirl Loves Rodeo is a 2021 American Western film directed by Catherine Hardwicke and starring Lily James, Camila Mendes, and Glen...



## Opportunity Hoarding and Segregation in the Age of Inequality

In an age marked by profound inequality, the concepts of opportunity hoarding and segregation have emerged as pressing concerns. These phenomena...