

# A Tiger Rules the Mountain

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# Synopsis

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Learn about how the dichotomous twins of idealism and pragmatism, of freedom and power, and of hope and fear are pitched against each other, wrestling for the future of Cambodia. This is Cambodia through the lens of human stories in what journalists and politicians have called 'gripping', 'a tour de force' and 'a must read'. Cambodia's Hun Sen was the world's longest-serving prime minister, in power since 1985, until handing power over to his son in August 2023. Hun Sen's plans for a dynasty were nearly ripped up in 2013 however, when the exiled opposition leader, Sam Rainsy, unexpectedly returned just before a national election. One hundred thousand supporters hailed him at the airport as protests swept the country. On election day, millions voted for change. This narrative non-fiction account tells the dramatic story of that election and the subsequent multi-year wrestle for power, right through to the dramatic events of the present day. Gordon Conochie lived and worked in the country and interviewed many involved in the events, including government officials, journalists, young human-rights activists and opposition politicians. The story he finds is both complex and riveting: Cambodia's history is riven with trauma yet there is a powerful and swelling appetite for change. Looking ahead to Cambodia's future and the role of democracy in South-East Asia, Conochie examines whether we will continue to see a backslide in liberal democracy or if the region could gradually be on the path to a more liberal future. See photos and videos from the events covered in the book, and read bonus chapters at the book's website: [atigerrules.com](http://atigerrules.com)

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