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Who Rules The World?

Who
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World



Noam
Chomsky

Author of HELLBORN OR SURVIVAL and FAILED STATES



Synopsis

The world's leading intellectual offers a probing examination of the waning American century, the nature of US policies post-9/11, and the perils of valuing power above democracy and human rights. In an incisive, thorough analysis of the current international situation, Noam Chomsky argues that the United States, through its military-first policies and its unstinting devotion to maintaining a world-spanning empire, is both risking catastrophe and wrecking the global commons. Drawing on a wide range of examples, from the expanding drone assassination program to the threat of nuclear warfare as well as the flashpoints of Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Israel/Palestine, he offers unexpected and nuanced insights into the workings of imperial power on our increasingly chaotic planet. In the process Chomsky provides a brilliant anatomy of just how US elites have grown ever more insulated from any democratic constraints on their power. While the broader population is lulled into apathy - diverted to consumerism or hatred of the vulnerable - the corporations and the rich have increasingly been allowed to do as they please. Fierce, unsparing, and meticulously documented, *Who Rules the World?* delivers the indispensable understanding of the central conflicts and dangers of our time that we have come to expect from Chomsky.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since the end of WWII, the U.S. has been the 'first among unequals,' and remains so' - setting the terms for global discussion on Israel-Palestine, Iran, Latin America, the GWOT, international

economics, human rights and justice, globalization, nuclear proliferation, etc. That power, however, has been diminishing since it peaked in 1945. Americans tend to believe that U.S. military supremacy is used only with benevolent intentions. Chomsky begs to differ - reporting an America full of hypocrisy and self-interest. He even points out that we're not the first to supposedly spread benevolence - previously there was France's 'civilizing mission' among its colonies, and Japan's vow to bring 'earthly paradise' to China. (I'm sure Rome had some benevolent motivations for constantly expanding its empire as well.) Prominent researchers in the U.S. have produced compelling evidence that 'economic elites and organized groups have substantial independent impact on U.S. government policy, while average citizens and mass-based interest groups have little or none.' Other studies have demonstrated that the large majority of the population at the lower end of the income/wealth scale are effectively excluded from the political system, while a tiny sector at the top has overwhelming influence, and that over a long period, campaign funding is a good predictor of policy choices. One consequence is large numbers not bothering to vote, and 'class-skewed abstention rates.' Meanwhile, environmental and nuclear threats continue to grow. The term 'dissident' does not apply to those who combat U.S.-supported tyranny abroad such as Nelson Mandela, Reagan's support for the apartheid regime in violation of congressional sanctions, as well as depredations in neighboring countries led to 1.

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