

Noam Chomsky

Quotes

*People, Thinking, War, Country, Mean, Government, Years, World, Political,
Media, Democracy, Real, Rights, Military, Powerful, United States, Running,
Party, America, Law*

Students who acquire large debts putting themselves through school are unlikely to think about changing society. When you trap people in a system of debt, they can't afford the time to think.

~Noam Chomsky

The general population doesn't know what's happening, and it doesn't even know that it doesn't know.

~Noam Chomsky

That's the standard technique of privatization: defund, make sure things don't work, people get angry, you hand it over to private capital.

~Noam Chomsky

Jingoism, racism, fear, religious fundamentalism: these are the ways of appealing to people if you're trying to organize a mass base of support for policies that are really intended to crush them.

~Noam Chomsky

There's a good reason why nobody studies history, it just teaches you too much.

~Noam Chomsky

The world is a very puzzling place. If you're not willing to be puzzled, you just become a replica of someone else's mind.

~Noam Chomsky

Democratic societies can't force people. Therefore they have to control what they think.

~Noam Chomsky

Nobody should have any illusions. The United States has essentially a one-party system and the ruling party is the business party.

~Noam Chomsky

If you want to control a population... give them a God to worship.

~Noam Chomsky

A language is not just words. It's a culture, a tradition, a unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is. It's all embodied in a language.

~Noam Chomsky

The police can go to downtown Harlem and pick up a kid with a joint in the streets. But they can't go into the elegant apartments and get a stockbroker who's sniffing cocaine.

~Noam Chomsky

If we don't believe in free expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all.

~Noam Chomsky

Hypocrites are those who apply to others the standards that they refuse to accept for themselves.

~Noam Chomsky

Either you repeat the same conventional doctrines everybody is saying, or else you say something true, and it will sound like it's from Neptune.

~Noam Chomsky

The indoctrination is so deep that educated people think they're being objective.

~Noam Chomsky

Nobody is going to pour truth into your brain. It's something you have to find out for yourself.

~Noam Chomsky

It is the responsibility of intellectuals to speak the truth and expose lies.

~Noam Chomsky

The United States is unusual among the industrial democracies in the rigidity of the system of ideological control - 'indoctrination,' we might say - exercised through the mass media.

~Noam Chomsky

If the Nuremberg laws were applied, then every post-war American president would have been hanged.

~Noam Chomsky

The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum.

~Noam Chomsky

Everybody's worried about stopping terrorism. Well, there's a really easy way: stop participating in it.

~Noam Chomsky

What's the point of being better than someone else?

~Noam Chomsky

You are responsible for the predictable consequences of your actions.

~Noam Chomsky

I have often thought that if a rational Fascist dictatorship were to exist, then it would choose the American system.

~Noam Chomsky

Propaganda is to a democracy what the bludgeon is to a totalitarian state...

~Noam Chomsky

The Bible is one of the most genocidal books in history.

~Noam Chomsky

Education must provide the opportunities for self-fulfillment; it can at best provide a rich and challenging environment for the individual to explore, in his own way.

~Noam Chomsky

How it is we have so much information, but know so little?

~Noam Chomsky

It's as if we're higher apes who had a language faculty inserted.

~Noam Chomsky

He who controls the media controls the minds of the public.

~Noam Chomsky

Education is a system of imposed ignorance.

~Noam Chomsky

Governments will use whatever technology is available to combat their primary enemy - their own population.

~Noam Chomsky

The uniformity and obedience of the media, which any dictator would admire...

~Noam Chomsky

Freedom without opportunity is a devil's gift, and the refusal to provide such opportunities is criminal

~Noam Chomsky

I don't have any oratory skills. But I would not use them if I had.

~Noam Chomsky

All public resources go to the rich. The poor, if they can survive in the labor market, fine. Otherwise, they die. That's economics in a nutshell.

~Noam Chomsky

It's a shameful moment for U.S. media when it insists on being subservient to the grotesque propaganda agencies of a violent, aggressive state.

~Noam Chomsky

The more you can increase fear of drugs and crime, welfare mothers, immigrants and aliens, the more you control all the people.

~Noam Chomsky

The intellectual tradition is one of servility to power, and if I didn't betray it I'd be ashamed of myself.

~Noam Chomsky

A basic principle of modern state capitalism is that costs and risks are socialized to the extent possible, while profit is privatized.

~Noam Chomsky

It doesn't matter how much you learn in school; it's whether you learn how to go on and do things by yourself. And that can be done at any level.

~Noam Chomsky

Moral cowardice and intellectual corruption are the natural concomitants of unchallenged privilege.

~Noam Chomsky

If something is repeated over and over as obvious, the chances are that it is obviously false.

~Noam Chomsky

Growth is a funny sort of concept. For example, our GNP increases every time we build a prison. Well, okay, it's growth in a sense.

~Noam Chomsky

For the powerful, crimes are those that others commit.

~Noam Chomsky

Do you train for passing tests or do you train for creative inquiry?

~Noam Chomsky

One of the greatest dangers is secular religion - state worship.

~Noam Chomsky

You cannot control your own population by force, but it can be distracted by consumption.

~Noam Chomsky

If voting could actually change anything, it would be illegal.

~Noam Chomsky

Colorless green ideas sleep furiously.

~Noam Chomsky

Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so.

~Noam Chomsky

We shouldn't be looking for heroes, we should be looking for good ideas.

~Noam Chomsky

Technology is basically neutral. It's kind of like a hammer. The hammer doesn't care whether you use it to build a house, or whether a torturer

uses it to crush somebody's skull.

~Noam Chomsky

The United States happens to be the only state in the world that has been condemned by the World Court for international terrorism.

~Noam Chomsky

The United States is absolutely the most dangerous country in the world.

~Noam Chomsky

Wanton killing of innocent civilians is terrorism, not a war against terrorism.

~Noam Chomsky

The people who were honored in the Bible were the false prophets. It was the ones we call the prophets who were jailed and driven into the desert.

~Noam Chomsky

The principle that human nature, in its psychological aspects, is nothing more than a product of history and given social relations removes all barriers to coercion and manipulation by the powerful.

~Noam Chomsky

ISIS is a monstrosity. It didn't come from nowhere. It's one of the results of the U.S. hitting a very vulnerable society - Iraq - with a sledgehammer.

~Noam Chomsky

The entire socioeconomic system is based on production for profit and a growth imperative that cannot be sustained.

~Noam Chomsky

It is a virtual reflex for governments to plead security concerns when they undertake any controversial action, often as a pretext for something else.

~Noam Chomsky

If you care about other people, you might try to organize to undermine power and authority. That's not going to happen if you care only about yourself.

~Noam Chomsky

The more privilege you have, the more opportunity you have. The more opportunity you have, the more responsibility you have.

~Noam Chomsky

People who call themselves supporters of Israel are actually supporters of its moral degeneration and ultimate destruction.

~Noam Chomsky

To live a life of honesty and integrity is a responsibility of every decent person.

~Noam Chomsky

The term "intellectual" is used conventionally to refer to people who happen to have unusual opportunities in this regard, and as always, opportunity confers moral responsibility.

~Noam Chomsky

The best defense against democracy is to distract people.

~Noam Chomsky

Anyone who studies declassified documents soon becomes aware that government secrecy is largely an effort to protect policy makers from scrutiny by citizens, not to protect the country from enemies.

~Noam Chomsky

All forms of involuntary servitude are prohibited, not only slavery but also conscription, forced association, and forced welfare distribution.

~Noam Chomsky

The number of people killed by the sanctions in Iraq is greater than the total number of people killed by all weapons of mass destruction in all of history.

~Noam Chomsky

Under capitalism, we can't have democracy by definition. Capitalism is a system in which the central institutions of society are in principle under autocratic control.

~Noam Chomsky

I have no Facebook page or Twitter - I don't participate in it, and I don't like it particularly. I mean, it's a form of interaction, which strikes me as extremely superficial.

~Noam Chomsky

You can't have meaningful political democracy without functioning economic democracy.

~Noam Chomsky

We don't use the term 'working class' here because it's a taboo term. You're supposed to say 'middle class,' because it helps diminish the understanding that there's a class war going on.

~Noam Chomsky

The general public are not even aware of major decisions that will determine their fate, hence are in no position to influence them

~Noam Chomsky

Markets are lethal, if only because of ignoring externalities, the impacts of their transactions on the environment.

~Noam Chomsky

There is no western concern for issues of aggression, atrocities, human rights abuses and so on if there's a profit to be made from them

~Noam Chomsky

Labor Unions are the leading force for democratization and progress .

~Noam Chomsky

If you are not offending people who ought to be offended, you're doing something wrong.

~Noam Chomsky

That's the whole point of good propaganda. You want to create a slogan that nobody's going to be against, and everybody's going to be for. Nobody knows what it means, because it doesn't mean anything.

~Noam Chomsky

If you're in a system where you must make profit in order to survive. You are compelled to ignore negative externalities, effects on others.

~Noam Chomsky

Ontological questions are generally beside the point, hardly more than a form of harassment.

~Noam Chomsky

Unfortunately, you can't vote the rascals out, because you never voted them in, in the first place

~Noam Chomsky

Citizens of the democratic societies should undertake a course of intellectual self defense to protect themselves from manipulation and control, and to lay the basis for meaningful democracy.

~Noam Chomsky

My linguistics is pretty theoretical.

~Noam Chomsky

There are very few people who are going to look into the mirror and say, 'That person I see is a savage monster;' instead, they make up some construction that justifies what they do.

~Noam Chomsky

Markets have built in inefficiencies, serious inefficiencies which are well known.

~Noam Chomsky

There is a social responsibility to take care of vulnerable people. It seems that a sensible social responsibility is obligatory education, but also decent education, and that is not happening.

~Noam Chomsky

If there was an observer on Mars, they would probably be amazed that we have survived this long.

~Noam Chomsky

Its true that contemporary technology permits decentralization, it also permits centralization. It depends on how you use the technology.

~Noam Chomsky

For those who stubbornly seek freedom, there can be no more urgent task than to come to understand the mechanisms and practices of indoctrination.

~Noam Chomsky

If we choose, we can live in a world of comforting illusion.

~Noam Chomsky

Remember, the U.S. is a powerful state, it's not like Libya. If Libya wants to carry out terrorist acts, they hire Carlos the Jackal or something. The United States hires terrorist states.

~Noam Chomsky

The public is not to see where power lies, how it shapes policy, and for what ends. Rather, people are to hate and fear one another.

~Noam Chomsky

Our health care is rationed by wealth.

~Noam Chomsky

There's no more morality in world affairs, fundamentally, than there was at the time of Genghis Khan.

~Noam Chomsky

With government deregulation and the triumph of financial liberalization, the dangers of systemic risks, the possibility of a financial tsunami, sharply increased.

~Noam Chomsky

Efforts can succeed over time, and not trying ensures that the worst will happen.

~Noam Chomsky

Africa's a wreck and it's not because it was hit by an asteroid. It's a wreck largely because it was hit by Europe.

~Noam Chomsky

It hardly takes more than a day in Gaza to begin to appreciate what it must be like to try to survive in the world's largest open-air prison.

~Noam Chomsky

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