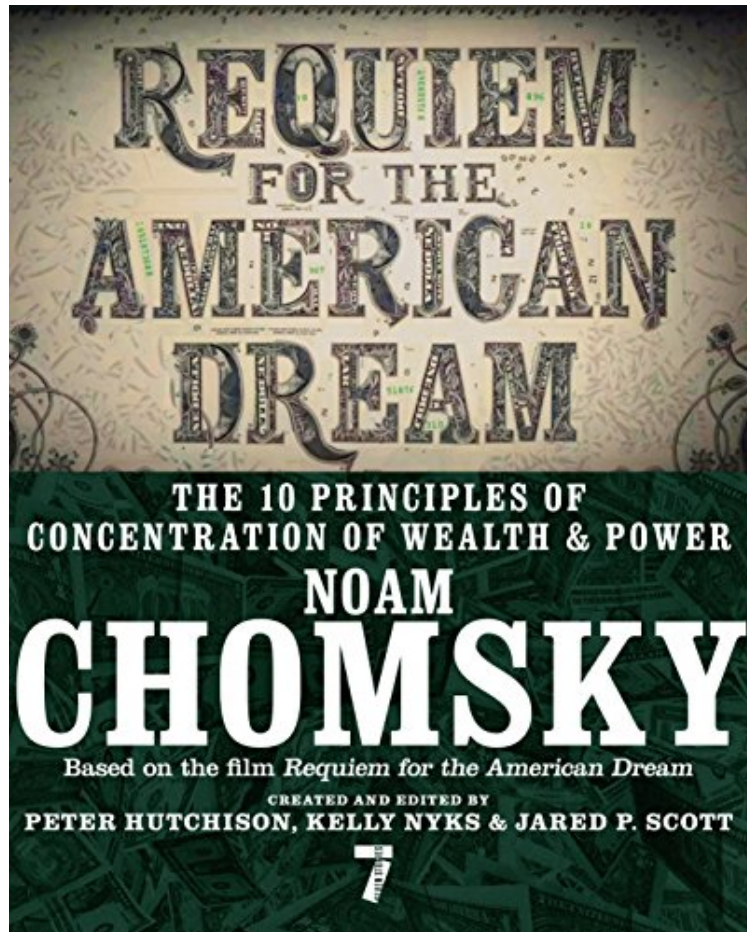


## Requiem for the American Dream: The 10 Principles of Concentration of Wealth Power

Noam Chomsky

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**Noam Chomsky : Requiem for the American Dream: The 10 Principles of Concentration of Wealth Power** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Requiem for the American Dream: The 10 Principles of Concentration of Wealth Power:

91 of 94 people found the following review helpful. Explaining "income inequality" (really the concentration of wealth) without mumbo-jumboBy Mal WarwickFor decades, economic scholars have commented on the dangers inherent in the growing concentration of wealth in Western society. Though misleadingly referred to as "income inequality"; in the new media, this critically important topic actively entered public debate in 2011 with Occupy Wall Street. Nobel Prize-winning economists Joseph Stiglitz and Paul Krugman and others added to the debate in the years that followed. Then, Senator Bernie Sanders flogged the issue at every opportunity in his presidential race in 2016, giving the issue further prominence. If there's anyone alive and alert in America today who isn't aware that the concentration of wealth is a growing problem for our society, it'd be surprised.Few contemporary American observers have a clearer-headed understanding of the issue and its causes than Noam Chomsky. Chomsky,

born in 1928, is widely regarded as the father of modern linguistics and one of the founders of the field of cognitive science. He's also well known—some might say notorious—as an activist and social commentator. He has written dozens of books on the technical aspects of his academic work, and even more on politics. But his latest, *Requiem for the American Dream: The 10 Principles of Concentration of Wealth Power*, is not a book he wrote. Instead, the book was distilled from a 2015 film of the same name, a documentary patched together using interviews filmed over four years with Chomsky. Unlike the books he has written, most of which are slow going and many (the texts on linguistics, impenetrable), *Requiem* consists entirely of transcriptions from the spoken word. The style is conversational and uses only a bare minimum of jargon. It's a quick read, and an enlightening one. As Chomsky notes, "Power has become so concentrated that not only are the banks 'too big to fail,' but as one economist put it, they are also 'too big to jail.'" Given our experience over the past decade, it would be difficult to argue with that. And anyone who closely follows events in American society today would say the same about this observation by Chomsky: "the rich and powerful, they don't want a capitalist system. They want to be able to run the 'nanny state' as soon as they're in trouble, and get bailed out by the taxpayer." If the American people fully understood how much tax money is funneled to corporations as subsidies, and how much the tax code has been distorted to favor them and their shareholders, they would storm Washington DC by the millions. In *Requiem*, Chomsky presents ten "principles" that together explain how the massive concentration of wealth in America today has come about. (His analysis applies to other wealthy countries as well, but it fits the U.S. best.) His argument is best summed up as what he calls a vicious circle: "Concentration of wealth yields concentration of power, particularly so as the cost of elections skyrockets, which forces the political parties even more deeply into the pockets of major corporations." The 10 principles underlying this reality, as Chomsky sees them, are: Reduce Democracy Shape Ideology Redesign the Economy Shift the Burden Attack Solidarity Run the Regulators Engineer Elections Keep the Rabble in Line Manufacture Consent Marginalize the Population. We've never seen a more comprehensive or economical explanation of how wealth has come to be so concentrated in so few hands in the U.S. today. Most of these principles are self-evident at a glance. Only two may require explanation. Chomsky uses the word "solidarity" as a synonym for empathy, caring for others, or "concern for your fellow man," to cite another archaic expression. His Principle #8, "Keep the Rabble in Line," refers to the coordinated 45-year effort by Big Business and Right-Wing ideologues to destroy the labor movement. The editors of *Requiem*—Peter Hutchison, Kelly Nyks, and Jared P. Scott—have interspersed short passages from other sources among the 10 Principles. The sources range over the centuries: from Aristotle and James Madison to Harry Truman and Martin Luther King Jr. These short excerpts from classic documents, speeches, press reports, and social commentaries add depth to the book's presentation and enhance understanding of Chomsky's message. Chomsky's views have often been regarded as extreme. Certainly, he is vilified by commentators and scholars on the Right. But if you read *Requiem for the American Dream*, I think you'll find his reading of history is accurate, his logic is sound, and his view of America today is—sadly—right on target. 49 of 52 people found the following review helpful. Not Radical - Right On By ChrisDClear summary of the fundamentals and history of the mechanisms enabling and sustaining concentration of power to the few with wealth. Included are excerpts of related writings supporting the topics from a variety of sources: Adam Smith, James Madison, Aristotle, Alan Greenspan, Citigroup document, Standard and Poors research, John Dewey, etc. The related material gives you a hint that what Chomsky is writing about is not far fetched but grounded in a rich history of ideas about how the world should work. 42 of 44 people found the following review helpful. Chomsky's elaboration of how we got to now and the ... By CustomerChomsky's elaboration of how we got to now and the techniques and strategies of the wealthy ruling elite is delivered in a succinct and easy-to-understand text. Essential reading for those trying to make real sense of the world today or looking for ways to take control back from the few and give a voice to the masses.

**A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER!** In his first major book on the subject of income inequality, Noam Chomsky skewers the fundamental tenets of neoliberalism and casts a clear, cold, patient eye on the economic facts of life. What are the ten principles of concentration of wealth and power at work in America today? They're simple enough: reduce democracy, shape ideology, redesign the economy, shift the burden onto the poor and middle classes, attack the solidarity of the people, let special interests run the regulators, engineer election results, use fear and the power of the state to keep the rabble in line, manufacture consent, marginalize the population. In *Requiem for the American Dream*, Chomsky devotes a chapter to each of these ten principles, and adds readings from some of the core texts that have influenced his thinking to bolster his argument. To create *Requiem for the American Dream*, Chomsky and his editors, the filmmakers Peter Hutchison, Kelly Nyks, and Jared P. Scott, spent countless hours together over the course of five years, from 2011 to 2016. After the release of the film version, Chomsky and the editors returned to the many hours of tape and transcript and created a document that included three times as much text as was used in the film. The book that has resulted is nonetheless arguably the most succinct and tightly woven of Chomsky's long career, a beautiful vessel—including old-fashioned ligatures in the typeface—in which to carry Chomsky's bold and uncompromising

vision, his perspective on the economic reality and its impact on our political and moral well-being as a nation."During the Great Depression, which I'm old enough to remember, it was badndash;much worse subjectively than today. But there was a sense that we'll get out of this somehow, an expectation that things were going to get better . . ."

mdash;fromnbsp;Requiem for the American Dream

"A primer in Chomskysquo;s analysis of the faults of the American political and economic system. Taking as its backbone the idea that ldquo;a significant part of the American Dream is class mobility: Yoursquo;re born poor, you work hard, you get rich,rdquo;nbsp;Chomsky systematically documents the many ways the system is rigged from top to bottom to ensure that corporations always win." --Billmoyers.com"Since Thomas Piketty'squo;snbsp;Capital in the 21st Century, income inequality has not been novel material for a book. Nevertheless, the latest book from famed activist and linguist Chomsky (Who Rules the World?) seems fresher than almost any title on the subject in recent memory. The book, based on the documentary of the same name, is a compilation of interviews that the film'squo;s directors conducted with Chomsky from 2011 to 2016. Chomsky observes the present-day United States with such lucid clarity that readers may feel they are viewing familiar terrain for the first time. He offers a ldquo;10 Principlesrdquo; formula for how plutocratic interests operate (Principle No. 7 is ldquo;Engineer Electionsrdquo;; Principle No. 3 is ldquo;Redesign the Economyrdquo;). Chomsky observes that much of what made the 1950s and rsquo;60s the ldquo;Golden Agerdquo; of the U.S. economy was that, at the time, what was good for General Motors really was good for America: ldquo;When the U.S. was primarily a manufacturing center, it had to be concerned with its own consumers.rdquo; Chomsky also touches, fascinatingly, on subjects as diverse as ldquo;the psychology of naggingrdquo; (as employed by the advertising industry) and the disappearing sense of solidarity in our civic life. Chomsky and his collaborators have created a perceptive and revelatory examination of the forces driving America inequality." mdash;Publishers Weekly"Noam Chomsky innbsp;Requiem for the American Dreamnbsp;directs the fierce light of his intellect on the utopian ideology of neoliberalism, the absurd idea that markets should dictate all aspects of human society. He dissects the disastrous consequences of this ideology for our society, culture, and politics. He explains how corporations indoctrinated the public, academia, and the mass media to sign on for a project that has devastated the lives of working men and women and obliterated the common good. Every promise made by the proponents of neoliberalism is a lie. Its power to write its own laws and regulations, Chomsky points out, has ultimately created a mafia economic system and a mafia political system that is exemplified in the rise to power of the demagogue Donald Trump." mdash;Chris Hedges, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and author ofnbsp;Wages of Rebellion: The Moral Imperative of Revolt "While many books attempt to explain how we got to this political moment (somenbsp;successfully), Noam Chomskysquo;snbsp;latest,nbsp;Requiem for the American Dream, provides necessary historical context. nbsp;Zooming in on ten ways that government and corporate interests have kept the American people down, Chomsky offers a compelling history that explains today'squo;s economic and political landscape. At 157 pages, it'squo;s a short, beautifully put together book." --Huffington PostAbout the AuthorPolitical philosopher, activist, and linguist NOAM CHOMSKY is beloved around the world for the strength of his personal commitment to the truth as he sees it and for the brilliance of his ideas. Bornnbsp;in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on December 7, 1928, he studied linguistics, mathematics, and philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania and received his PhD there in 1955. Chomsky has taught at MIT for fifty years and is currently Institute Professor Emeritus in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy. His linguistics work is widely credited with having revolutionized the field, and his political writings have made important contributions for decades. In 2001, he published 9-11, which became his first international bestseller and was arguably the single most influential postndash;9-11 book. Chomsky is the author of many other best-selling political works, including Profit Over People, Media Control, Hegemony or Survival, Failed States, Hopes and Prospects, Masters of Mankind, What Kind of Creatures Are We?, and Who Rules the World?PETER HUTCHISON is an NYC-based filmmaker, educator, and activist. His documentary work includes What Would Jesus Buy? with producing partner Morgan Spurlock; Split: A Divided America; Beyond Activism: Four Decades of Social Justice; and Awake Zion: Rasta, Reggae Judaism. KELLY NYKS is an award-winning writer/director of documentary films and has worked across Europe, Asia, and America. His prior films include The Age of Consequences, Disobedience, Disruption, Do the Math, Split: A Divided America, and Split: A Deeper Divide. Award-winning writer, director, and producer JARED P. SCOTT's other films include The Age of Consequences, Disruption, Do the Math, and The Artificial Leaf. His films have screened at Tribeca, Hot Docs, Sheffield, and IDFA, and have aired/streamed on Netflix, Starz, PBS, and Al Jazeera.