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Noam Chomsky Imperial Grand Strategy

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Noam Chomsky, arguably the most prominent political thinker in the world today, offers his views on the conquest of Iraq and the assault on democracy...

First and foremost, Noam Chomsky is an expert in linguistics and is seen by many as one of the most influential and important men ever connected to the field. However, Chomsky has gained rather more recognition worldwide for his political thinking, particularly over the last few years. Always an outspoken critic of the American government and their worldwide foreign policies, Chomsky has been adopted by many as a voice of reason within an ever bewildering and frightening political landscape. If you take into account that the late, great Bill Hicks once described himself as being like 'Noam Chomsky with dick jokes', you might get an idea where Chomsky is coming from.

'Imperial Grand Strategy' contains two lectures and an interview featuring Chomsky. In the first lecture, given at the University of Manchester in 2004, Chomsky tackles the piping hot potato that is the war in Iraq. The main theme of the lecture is what Chomsky describes as the New Imperial Grand Strategy, a major plan by the American government of which the invasion of Iraq was to be the first step. Along the way, he touches upon the fact that George Bush and his government managed spectacularly to turn a huge wave of sympathy for America in the wake of 9/11 into an equally huge wave of hatred and disgust, and offers his thoughts on Al Qaeda and how an essentially unknown group came to the fore, as did Osama Bin Laden, following America's

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bombing of Afghanistan and Sudan back in the late 1990's and the disproportionately minor response from the West that followed the bombings.

The second lecture is at Merrimack College and sees Chomsky focus on the American government's history of 'democracy building' in foreign countries and their hugely inconsistent and self-serving support for various oppressive regimes around the world.

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In the interview, Chomsky discusses his thoughts on Anarchism, the principles of which he has valued for many years. In an increasingly politicised world, people are becoming more and more interested in figures such as Chomsky - the phenomenal worldwide success of Michael Moore over the last few years stands as testament to that - and that can only be a good thing. The subjects that Noam Chomsky discusses are being discussed by millions of people every day, but the authority and knowledge

appearances like these essential viewing. Don't expect Michael Moore like injections of humour or gimmicks, or Bremner like spoofing of George Bush and his stupidity - not that either of these are any the less powerful in what they do. This is simply a man speaking what essentially is the truth about a tragic state of affairs, a man who, sickeningly, is more educated, knowledgable and clear minded than the most powerful

This release was published on 15 May 2006.

2006

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