

## Review of *Hegemony or Survival: US Mass Media Domination*

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### ABSTRACT

Hugo Chavez has recommended “Hegemony or Survival” by Noam Chomsky to show the American Hegemony in the world. Beside the well documented facts to support the argument, the real value of this book is in the way the author analyzes the purposes, methods, and behaviors of the United States in terms that are realistic, truthful, and entirely different from the ones we get in politician’s speeches, in the news, and in history books.

**Keywords: Noam Chomsky, USA, media, hegemony**

The author in this book shows how the United States conveyed the world into a moment between privileges of power and the possibility of life on Earth, what are the risks on Earth because of this policy, and why US leaders want to expose the future of Human Kind to danger. Also, the author analyzes the American quest to dominate the world regardless of the sacrifices and losses, such as State terror, the militarization of space and ignoring international agreements. It is a macroscopic examination of United States foreign policy from World War II to the post-Iraq War reconstruction. The essential focus of the book, as with many of Chomsky’s political works, is the inspection of the United States’ political, military and economic motives to its outward rhetorical support for democracy, the Middle-East peace process, free trade, and human rights. “Hegemony or Survival” is considered one of the most important books for Noam Chomsky. The author is known for his protestation against US foreign policy.

The author considers the idea of human existence and if its stupidity overcomes intelligence to not destroy the human race. From this point, the author recognizes two superpowers in the contemporary world: "the United States and world public opinion (p. 4). He points out that every American president, since centuries, seems to have had their own disgraceful foreign policy that. No matter how liberal the president is, has directly looted, plundered, and terrorized another country, or as has supported another regime that has pillaged, plundered, and terrorized their own country.

The book *Hegemony or Survival* is a national bestseller because of Chavez’s recommendation and its affluent foundation. Yet, in this section, it is vital to consider the sources of the book, and not the essence. Chomsky excessively relies on newspaper sources to support his examination of the topic and very rarely confirms secondary sources or provides analysis of the sources themselves. Some of his sources are very rare and leaked, for example, he used a quotation for passage of a leaked intelligence document. Noam Chomsky also focuses on his work on archival research which is very important to use. Moreover, Chomsky footnotes his own work such as when he tried to explain the similarity between Noriega’ usefulness to the US and the one of Sadam Hussein (footnote 7, p. 113).

Noam Chomsky is a very popular author in the field of media control and US foreign policy. Many people consider him a national hero in revealing the evil plans of the US administrations

and the governmental lies on the public opinion and brainwashing them with media. The book is considered a leftist book, yet, in a personal opinion, it gives facts and not opinion, although the theories are biased in the interpretation of Chomsky. This is considered one of the weaknesses of the book when the author uses his argument based on unsupported assertion; yet, we cannot consider the information to be untrue. Overall, the book is a great source to reveal the secrets of hegemonic western governments and to link between the history of the US with its present foreign policy. In the last chapter, Chomsky hopes for a peaceful world, yet, I would disagree with that since the human nature tends to be aggressive especially in contemporary world because of the scarcity of resources and overpopulation. Everything else in this book is striking to know about the motivations of the US in dominating the world.

### **Источники и литература**

- 1) Chomsky, Noam (2003). *Hegemony or Survival*. Metropolitan Books. ISBN 978-0-8050-7400-0