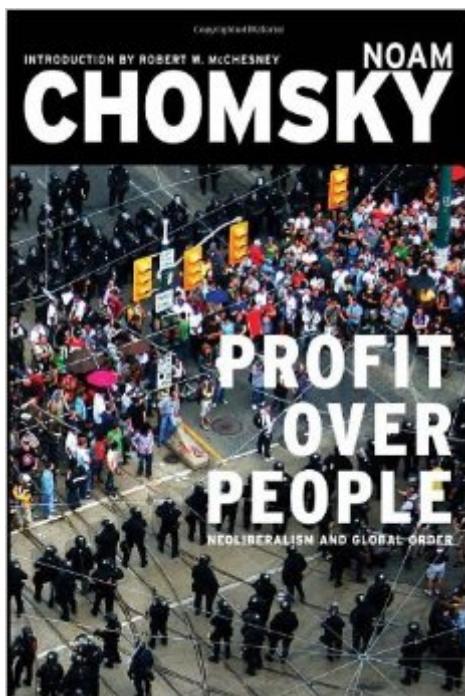


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# Profit Over People: Neoliberalism & Global Order



## Synopsis

Why is the Atlantic slowly filling with crude petroleum, threatening a millions-of-years-old ecological balance? Why did traders at prominent banks take high-risk gambles with the money entrusted to them by hundreds of thousands of clients around the world, expanding and leveraging their investments to the point that failure led to a global financial crisis that left millions of people jobless and hundreds of cities economically devastated? Why would the world's most powerful military spend ten years fighting an enemy that presents no direct threat to secure resources for corporations? The culprit in all cases is neoliberal ideology—“the belief in the supremacy of “free” markets to drive and govern human affairs. And in the years since the initial publication of Noam Chomsky’s *Profit Over People: Neoliberalism and Global Order*, the bitter vines of neoliberalism have only twisted themselves further into the world economy, obliterating the public’s voice in public affairs and substituting the bottom line in place of people’s basic obligation to care for one another as ends in themselves. In *Profit Over People*, Chomsky reveals the roots of the present crisis, tracing the history of neoliberalism through an incisive analysis of free trade agreements of the 1990s, the World Trade Organization, and the International Monetary Fund—and describes the movements of resistance to the increasing interference by the private sector in global affairs. In the years since the initial publication of *Profit Over People*, the stakes have only risen. Now more than ever, *Profit Over People* is one of the key texts explaining how the crisis facing us operates—and how, through Chomsky’s analysis of resistance, we may find an escape from the closing net.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Born in Philadelphia in 1928, NOAM CHOMSKY is known throughout the world for his political writings, activism, and for his groundbreaking work in linguistics. A professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 1955, Chomsky gained recognition in academic circles for his theory of transformational grammar, which drew attention to the syntactic universality of all human languages. But it is as a critic of unending war, corporate control and neoliberalism that Chomsky has become one of the country's most well known public intellectuals. The 1969 publication of American Power and the New Mandarins marked the beginning of Chomsky's rigorous public criticism of American hegemony and its lieges. Since then, with his tireless scholarship and an unflagging sense of moral responsibility, he has become one of the most influential writers in the world. Chomsky is the author of Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media (with Edward S. Herman), Profit Over People: Neoliberalism and Global Order, and over one hundred other books. To this day Noam Chomsky remains an active and uncompromising voice of dissent.

If you read this book, you'll find yourself double-checking the dates at the end of each section: 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998. But the book reads like it's all about today, 2015 — secret trade deals, fast track, the veil of secrecy, the corruption of democracy to the point of near extinction, privatization, austerity measures forced upon the poor and middle class, mass surveillance and collection of personal information, an ever-widening wealth-gap between the 99% and the top 1%, accumulation of wealth by dispossession, union busting, public socialized risk and costs in totally unbalanced ratio to private profit margins and corporate economic control, low and lowering wages, unemployment, out-sourcing manufacturing jobs, rolling back environmental protections and human rights progress, trade union suppression, personhood for corporations (15 years before Citizens United), behind-closed-doors trade treaties agreed upon by powerful international trading cartels and corporations but never ratified by the US Congress in violation of the Constitution. And there's more! From cover-to-cover, the book is an exposé of the secret government that controls the world — this is not some imaginary paranoid conspiracy theory from the John Birch Society or the Tea Party, but it's an invisible government with no accountability to public democratic institutions, no elected officials except those elected board members selected by private stockholders, bankers and international finance lobbyists having no allegiance to nation-states, loyal only to the principles representing international business, profit, wealth and power. Sound familiar? There is no "good news" in this book. But Chomsky attempts to end his book of gloom on a slightly up-beat tone by observing that the public, in fact, WAS able to delay, or at least postpone, an important Clinton-driven trade deal during his

administration called the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). Chomsky points to this “victory” and ends his book with this timely warning dated August 1998: “One should attend carefully to the fear and desperation of the powerful. They understand well the potential reach of public action.” The powerful invisible government (in the US, a “virtual Senate”) is determined to prevent the public from seeking a more free and just world by gaining understanding how the system is rigged, and putting that intelligence to work effectively against rich and powerful globalized special interests. They will do everything within their power to prevent that from happening. That’s an understatement!

Another great book by Chomsky. I discovered his work late in life(almost 60 years old). Pretty sobering to learn things that I and probably others are oblivious too. Not an alarmist or conspiracy theorist but it is what it is. Being a lifelong history buff, I can now look at certain events and people in a different light and a lot of things make sense even if I don’t agree with it. Definitely a good read, do not read if you do not have an open mind or like to question things.

The book heightens knowledge and awareness of power structures and power decision-making in society that otherwise remain hidden. It reveals the double-speak in modern discourse about such concepts as free markets, free trade, and democracy - concepts that are used by governments, corporations, and media to pull the wool over the eyes of the people and to promote the privilege, subsidies, and nation-like powers of wealthy businesses. Although radical and conspiratorial in some ways, the argumentation explains well how the modern world ended up in its current state of low economic growth, lack of job security, stagnation of wages, and loss of power for the regular worker.

This series of articles and lectures is a worthwhile read even as it gets along in years. It's remarkable to compare the aims of the mid-90's corporate elite he describes (low growth, low wages) to our conditions today (low growth, low wages). I'm posting this review mostly to warn that the Kindle version is another poor, unedited conversion, with a lot of bad typos and misplaced words. Publishers ought to be embarrassed to put out such flawed editions. If you're interested in reading this I'd look for a library copy.

As always, Mr. Chomsky shows us how the corporate elite molds our way of thinking, with profit as their bottom line. This book is one of those that cannot be read in a single sitting, but rather taken in

over time, and then re-read to allow the full meaning to take hold. Some things need time to sink in without causing us to be overwhelmed by the truth, which can be painful at times.

Noam Chomsky is brilliant. However this book mostly repeats a lot of his other work and lectures. To me the book fails to address, clarify or identify potential solutions to the issues raised in the title to the work.

I had to take several extended breaks reading this, because I became so agitated. Not that that's a bad thing sometimes. I'm sure if your views on this Nation are of the right wing variety, or you really believe, at face value, what the political parties and the propaganda machine that are the media, tell you...you will be flat outraged. But outrage is good. Makes you question "authority". That's a birthright - more like a duty - of any truly "free" citizen. Maybe you will dismiss it as socialist propaganda and continue with the blinders firmly in place. Your choice. I don't buy into every thing Chomsky concludes, but he's on the mark 95 percent of the time, at least I believe so. We have been lead to believe many untruths about Capitalism and the free market, and how integral it is to a "free" democracy. It's not. It's a tough read. Not because it's not engrossing. But you don't want to see these things. It's uncomfortable. You believe in The Hollywood version of the USA. It's ingrained. After this, I will go and lose myself in some smutty novels for awhile. So I can sleep at night. But, yes, I recommend this. If more Americans took the time to read, let alone read subject matter such as this, we would be a stronger nation for it.

From the very first page to the last... very hard to put down. It may be that I am attracted very strongly to such a stream of critical information, or it may be that Chomsky has so much knowledge that I wish I had a long time ago so as to be able to SEE what is so hard to see and learn from the establishment or the system.

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