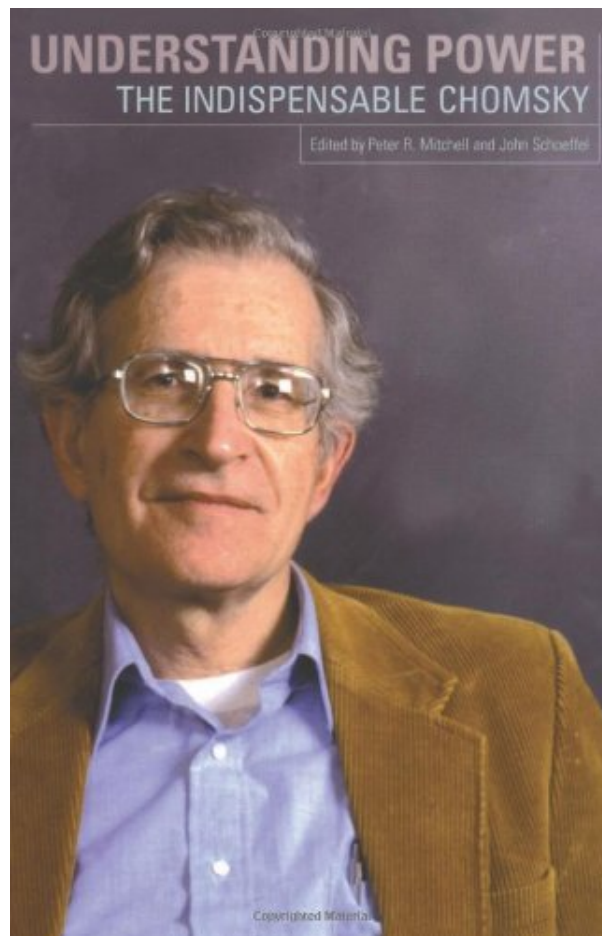
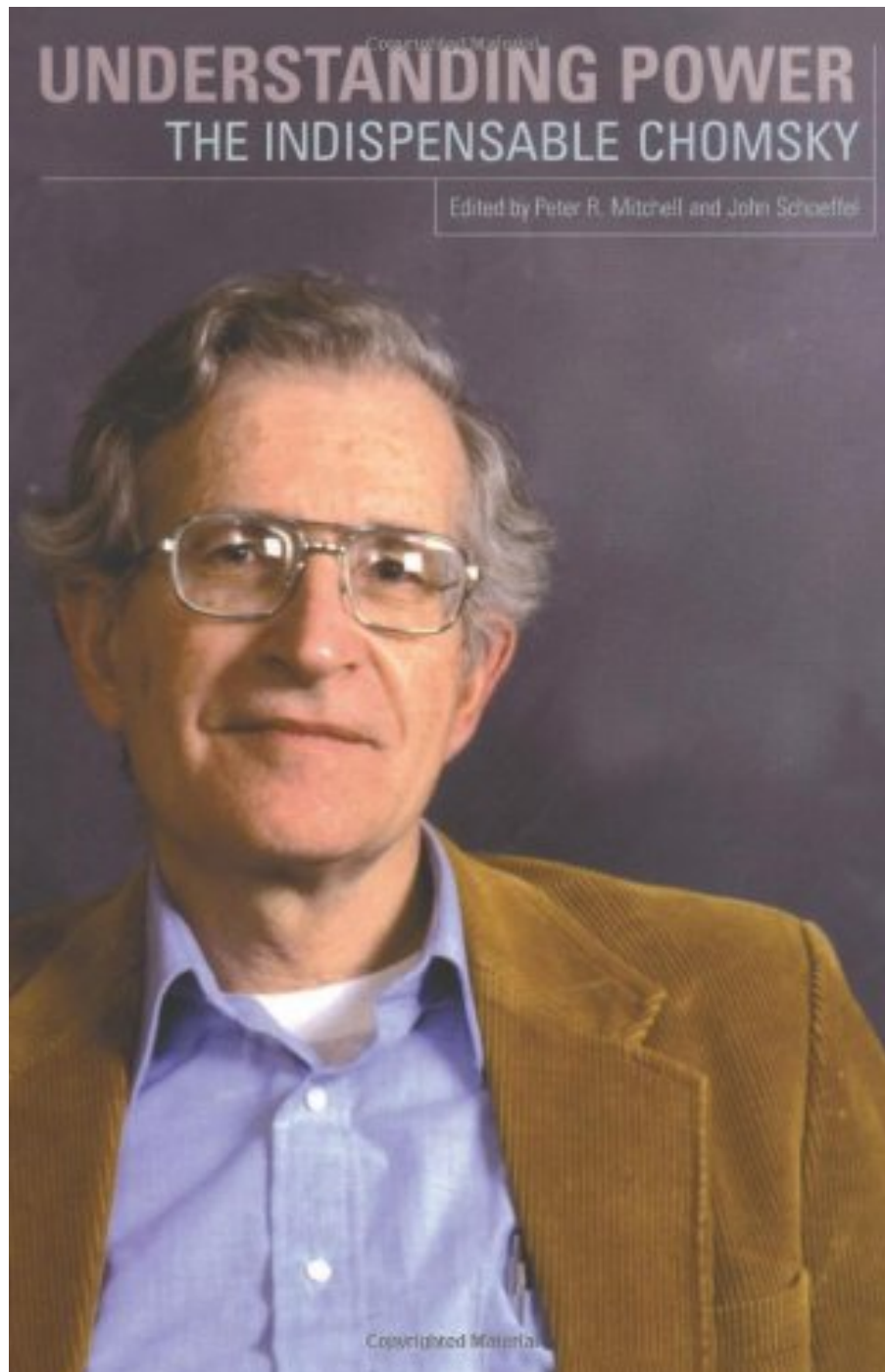


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Noam Chomsky is universally accepted as one of the preeminent public intellectuals of the modern era. Over the past thirty years, broadly diverse audiences have gathered to attend his sold-out lectures. Now, in *Understanding Power*, Peter Mitchell and John Schoeffel have assembled the best of Chomsky's recent talks on the past, present, and future of the politics of power.

In a series of enlightening and wide-ranging discussions, all published here for the first time, Chomsky radically reinterprets the events of the past three decades, covering topics from foreign policy during Vietnam to the decline of welfare under the Clinton administration. And as he elucidates the connection between America's imperialistic foreign policy and the decline of domestic social services, Chomsky also discerns the necessary steps to take toward social change. With an eye to political activism and the media's role in popular struggle, as well as U.S. foreign and domestic policy, *Understanding Power* offers a sweeping critique of the world around us and is definitive Chomsky.

Characterized by Chomsky's accessible and informative style, this is the ideal book for those new to his work as well as for those who have been listening for years.

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Power to the People

By Abner Rosenweig

10 stars for one of the most life-changing, perspective altering books I've read. I will work through it at least once more to take detailed notes. With eloquence and encyclopedic knowledge of the social, economic, and political system in America and abroad, Chomsky pulls back the curtain on the machinations of power in all its forms to reveal at its core a horrid creed of greed for a few at the expense of health, dignity, and life for the many.

"The 'masters of mankind,' as [Adam Smith] called them, will do what they can to in order to follow the 'vile maxim': 'all for ourselves and nothing for anyone else.'" The entire book is really an expurgation of this thesis. Of course, this is nothing new in history, but as we see in the book, the interconnectedness of the world and the unprecedented levels of inequity and abuse are ripping civilization apart.

Every year, an American president presents a rosy State of the Nation address. With well-documented facts, Chomsky paints a starkly different picture: society is crashing, and, in the 11th hour, it's up to the people to wake up and take collective action before it's too late.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

I think this is a great look at how power is manipulated towards a small ...

By Matthew Anderson

I think this is a great look at how power is manipulated towards a small group of people with tons of money. Chris Hedges and Noam Chomsky have both said in their books that power is controlled by those with the most violence. In understanding power Noam Chomsky says that the powerful will allow the people to play around the edges and protest as long as the actual power isn't threatened.

look at Zuccatti Park, the people were allowed to stay there until it started to actually affect the minds of the average person. Then the violence broke out. look at any peaceful group get together, it always ends in violence, violence created by the state. Until people are willing to stand their ground against the violence it will only escalate just like in the 60's when the government gunned down their own unarmed citizens. "Ohio, Kent State, Everything was so great". There are interviews with the military that you can watch where they talk about the reason they ended the Vietnam war was to make sure they had enough troops on the ground in the U.S. to fight its own people in case they tried to take over and change the government. Anyone who wants to be a dissident, this book is a must read. It makes you think about things that you may not consider such as the alienation by friends and family because when you don't tow the line it makes people very uncomfortable and they don't want to be around you. Its a tough life, I know. Read the book, you decide.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Good medicine always tastes bad.

By Deogratias Rweyemamu

Reading Chomsky's work, I've been amazed at how much I couldn't discern that's been laid out in plain view. Kudos to the editor for wonderfully organizing transcripts of Chomsky's Q&A sessions and making this book.

Chomsky shares his views across a multitude of topics, and most of his views are backed up in the footnotes, which makes for compelling truth.

Some of the interesting themes include American foreign and domestic policy, the propaganda system, function of schools, third world governance and fraud of modern economics.

It's nearly impossible to summarize all of Chomsky's insights in the book but one thing has been consistent -

his brutal, no nonsense, honesty. One of the quotes that gives you the gist of it:

"According to a study by O.E.C.D. about a half of a trillion dollar of drug money gets laundered internationally every year - more than half of it through American banks. How many bankers are in jail? None. But if a black kid gets caught with a joint, he goes to jail."

This book is certainly not for the faint of hearted, but it's a much needed wake up call.

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