

# Taming the Rascal Multitude

Essays, Interviews, and Lectures 1997–2014

**Noam Chomsky • Afterword: Michael Albert**  
**Editor: Lydia Sargent**

As Noam Chomsky writes about something—US foreign policy, corporate policies, an election, or a movement—he is not only quite specific in recounting the topic and its facts but also exercises blisteringly relentless logic to discern the interconnections between the evidence and broader themes involved. This may seem mundane, but virtually every time, even aside from the details of the case in question, the process, the steps, the ways of linking one thing to another illustrate what it means to be a thinking, critical subject of history and society, in any time and place.

*Taming the Rascal Multitude* is a judicious selection of essays and interviews from *Z Magazine* from 1997 to 2014. In each, Chomsky takes up some question of the moment. As such, in sum, the essays provide an historical overview of the history that preceded Trump and the reaction to Trump. The essays situate what followed even without having known what would follow. They explicate what preceded the current era and provide a step-by-step revelation or how-to for successfully comprehending social events and relations. They are a pleasure to read, much like the pleasure of watching a great athlete or performer, but they also edify. They educate.

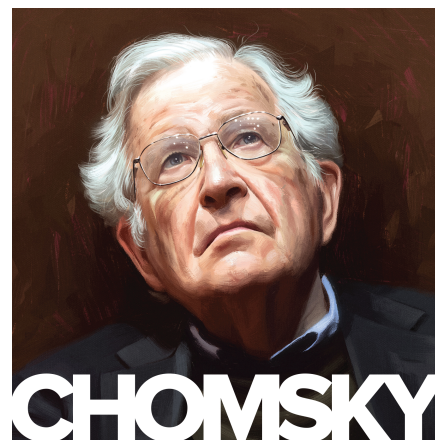
Reading Chomsky is about understanding how society works, how people relate to society and social trends and patterns and why, and, beyond the specifics, how to approach events, relations, occurrences, trends, and patterns in a way that reveals their inner meanings and their outer connections and implications. It is like reading the best you can get about topic after topic, and, more, it is like watching a master-craftsman in a discipline that ought to be all of ours understanding the world to change it.

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Noam Chomsky** is a laureate professor at the University of Arizona and professor emeritus in the MIT Department of Linguistics and Philosophy. His work is widely credited with having revolutionized the field of modern linguistics and Chomsky is one of the foremost critics of U.S. foreign policy. He has published numerous groundbreaking books, articles, and essays on global politics, history, and linguistics. His recent books include *Who Rules the World?* and *Hopes and Prospects*.

**Michael Albert** is an organizer, publisher, teacher, and author of over twenty books and hundreds of articles. He cofounded South End Press, *Z Magazine*, the Z Media Institute, ZNet, and various other projects, and works full time for Z Communications. He is the author of *Practical Utopia: Strategies for a Desirable Society*.

**Lydia Sargent** is a founder and original member of the South End Press Collective, as well as *Z Magazine*, which she co-edits and co-produces. Her plays include "I Read About My Death in *Vogue Magazine*" and "Playbook" with Maxine Klein and Howard Zinn. She is the editor of *Women and Revolution: The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism*.



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NOAM CHOMSKY

*Afterword by Michael Albert*

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