



Noam Chomsky

REQUIEM FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM is the definitive discourse with Noam Chomsky, widely regarded as the most important intellectual alive, on the defining characteristic of our time – the deliberate concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a select few.

Through interviews filmed over four years, Chomsky unpacks the principles that have brought us to the crossroads of historically unprecedented inequality – tracing a half-century of policies designed to favor the most wealthy at the expense of the majority – while also looking back on his own life of activism and political participation.

Profoundly personal and thought provoking, Chomsky provides penetrating insight into what may well be the lasting legacy of our time – the death of the middle class, and swan song of functioning democracy. A potent reminder that power ultimately rests in the hands of the governed, REQUIEM is required viewing for all who maintain hope in a shared stake in the future.



**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS DOCUMENTARY WAS RELEASED BEFORE THE ELECTION OF DONALD TRUMP AS PRESIDENT**

## Noam Chomsky's Ten Principals of the Concentration of Wealth and Power

### 1. Reduce Democracy

What is the flaw in democracy pointed out by James Madison and Aristotle?

What does Chomsky point out as a major tension that exists throughout American history?

## **2. Shape Ideology**

How does the business community and "The Crisis of Democracy" report beat back the "democratizing wave" created in the 1960s?

## **3. Redesign the Economy**

How has the American economy changed in the past 50 years?

What has happened to the American worker?

#### **4. Shift the Burden**

Overall, what has been happening to tax rates in the United States over the past 50 years?

#### **5. Attack Solidarity**

Why attack the principle of solidarity?

How has this impacted education in the United States?

#### **6. Run the Regulators**

Big Question: Why does Noam Chomsky argue that the US is no longer a capitalist state?

## **7. Engineer Elections**

\*In the United States corporations are considered "persons" in law. After 2009 they are given "freedom of speech," meaning they can spend whatever they want on elections . . .

What does this mean?

## **8. Keep the Rabble in Line**

What happens to wages when unions dissolve?

## **9. Manufacture Consent**

What does Chomsky mean by "fabricating consumers"?

What does Chomsky say about President Obama?

## **10. Marginalize the Population**

70% of the American population has no ability to influence the political climate.

What happens when people feel that they have no influence on society?

On a separate sheet (to be submitted via The Hub) answer the following question: based on our explorations this week, what do you think will be the future for the American Republic? Also, how do you think the Trumpian Era will end/endure? **Remember to cite concrete examples from the documentary, and your own research, throughout your answer** (please, no less than 300 words)

