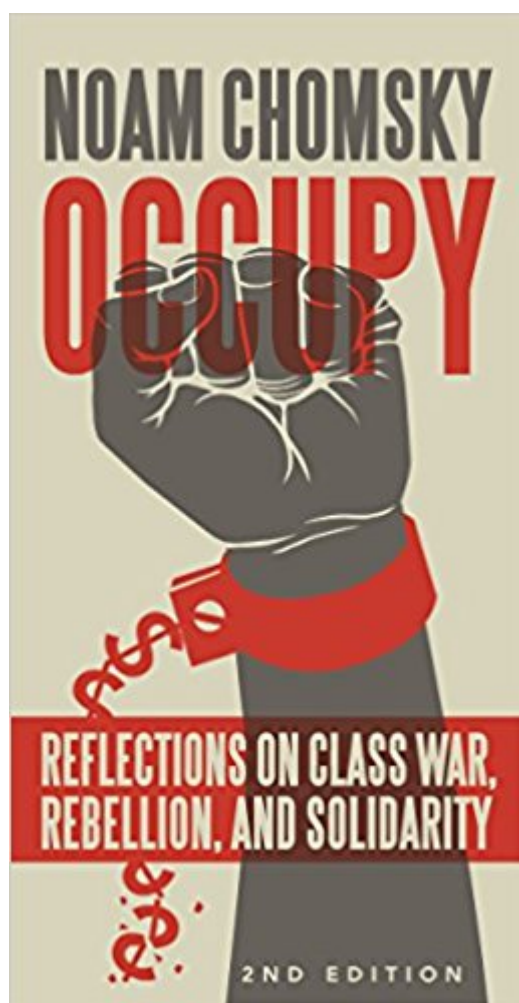


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# Occupy: Reflections On Class War, Rebellion And Solidarity (Occupied Media Pamphlet Series)



## Synopsis

PRAISE FOR NOAM CHOMSKY'S OCCUPY AND ZUCCOTTI PARK PRESS: "Occupy is another vital contribution from Chomsky to the literature of defiance and protest, and a red-hot rallying call to forge a better, more egalitarian future." —AlterNet; "For decades, Chomsky has been marginalized for his insightful, levelheaded, and accurate observations about how our society functions. In *Occupy*, Chomsky... sets the record straight. And he's got an answer for everything. It's necessary," —Chomsky warns, "to get out into the country and get people to understand what this is about, and what they can do about it, and what the consequences are of not doing anything about it." —*Occupy* begins with a powerful editor's note from Greg Ruggiero, who comments on "the heartlessness and inhumanity of the system, where people's stolen homes are sold off to the highest bidder." And if it isn't obvious to those who are still asking what the demands of Occupy Wall Street are, Ruggiero puts it plainly: "Occupy embodies a vision of democracy that is fundamentally antagonistic to the management of society as a corporate-controlled space that funds a political system to serve the wealthy, ignore the poor." One can only cringe at the thought of what will happen if we continue to ignore the wisdom of Noam Chomsky. He gives a clue in *Occupy*: "The Coffin Factory, The Magazine for People who Love Books" Chomsky advocates intelligent activism by those who see the divorce between public policy and public opinion. He is both optimistic and realistic towards this "first major public response to 30 years of class war." —IRISH TIMES, PICK REVIEW; "Occupy, is at once a vivid portrait of the now-global movement and a practical guide to intelligent activism, infused with Chomsky's signature meditations on everything from how the wealthiest 1% came to steer society to what a healthy democracy would look like to how we can separate money from politics. Alongside Chomsky's words are some of the most moving and provocative photographs from the Occupy movement." —Maria Popova, Brain Pickings; "Having spent so much time thinking about and engaging with social movements, Chomsky is both optimistic about the energy of Occupy and realistic about the challenges it faces. He appreciates the "just do it" ethos and embraces its radical approach to participatory democracy." What makes Chomsky's perspective so interesting, aside from the wealth of his political experience, is the range of his interests. He draws from examples around the world to demonstrate his points. ...It's a big agenda that Occupy has identified, nothing less than a complete renewal of U.S. society and the U.S. role in the world. Chomsky sees not only the radical agenda but also the radical practice of the Occupiers. Part of what functioning, free communities like the Occupy communities can be working for and spreading to others is just a

different way of living, which is not based on maximizing consumer goods, but on maximizing values that are important for life,â he concludes in this valuable set of remarks and interviews.â

John Feffer, Foreign Policy in Focus, Pick Review

In this updated and expanded edition of *Occupy*, Chomsky speaks to and with supporters of the Occupy movement about the structural injustices of the current economic and political system and the prospects for real change. The new edition includes all the material of the first edition plus four new in-depth interviews. Throughout, Chomsky encourages people to continue organizing, to continue struggling, and to continue defending citizenship and community-driven democracy from predation from the relentless encroachments of corporate power and wealthiest few. What counts most, says Chomsky, is solidarity.

## Book Information

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•The Coffin Factory, The Magazine for People who Love Books

Occupy is another vital contribution from Chomsky to the literature of defiance and protest, and a red-hot rallying call to forge a better, more egalitarian future." â™

•Alternet

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•John Feffer, Foreign Policy in Focus, Pick Review

Noam Chomsky is known throughout the world for his groundbreaking work in linguistics and for his relentless advocacy for democracy, freedom and self-determination. He is author of dozens of books, many of which have become international best sellers. He is Institute Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston. A

member of the American Academy of Science, he has published widely in both linguistics and current affairs, and writes a monthly column for The New York Times Syndicate which is picked up by a host of print and electronic media around the globe.

It is short and concise in the form of a revolutionary pamphlet, but the contents contain nothing extremist, rather they are musings on a generation of activism and labor rights that has been lost. Labor unions have been busted, and corporations own us. Bezos at Amazon does a great public service, but so does Walmart - and they are not exactly trying to advance humanity like Jeff or Elon, rather they are just sitting on the money and underpaying employees, and I do hope that the press had an effect on the hours culture at Amazon. It's bad for America that we have companies that don't need labor, and our country really will cease to exist if this continues for decades. Technology won't exactly save us either, as the pace of innovation has slowed, though the pace of automation is now harnessed. Let's think this through: read Occupy. Chomsky is older now, and though it would have been more of a tour de force had he been younger and able to devote more time and footnotes to it, the ideas are sound and his experience is "that thing that speaks for itself." Thank you, Mr. Chomsky.

Noam Chomsky is worth reading even when reiterates the same themes as happens in this short book Occupy, the description of the sit-in protests. Chomsky provides a much needed prophetic voice in an America that needs to be better educated in its own history, particularly when it comes to the authors of the Constitution. Oligarchy and plutocracy are growing threats to the ideals of every citizen having a voice in who is to govern.

The book explodes on page one: no bankers arrested -- none, zip, nada, rein -- 7,762 Occupiers arrested from the first 80 in NYC on 24 September 2011 to the two arrested in SF on 15 June 2013. Talk about GRIFTOPIA -- the police work for the thieves and arrest the owners! There are a number of key insights within this book, and I strongly recommend it to anyone who wishes to pulse the state of the union -- Chomsky, who eulogizes Howard Zinn throughout, brackets our current situation with two trenchant observations early on: NO, the USA will not become a fascist state relying on force to repress the public. Impossible to do (to which I would add, the balance of power in relation to weapons is in the hands of citizens -- even with Chinese and Russian and UN "men without a country secret bases" anyone shooting at citizens will be dead before sundown on the same day....IMHO) NO, a general strike will not succeed in part because Occupy is still in the

relative shadows and is incapable of organizing a general strike (to which I would add, the labor union leaders are also corrupt and/or inattentive, there is no labor movement in the USA anymore). Where Chomsky (whom I have respected since I began to understand the concept of propaganda and public behavioral control through "soft" power) really excels is in emphasizing to Occupy and those following Occupy -- he does this over and over again -- that public power requires a public. As I found myself when I tried to mobilize Occupy to focus on electoral reform (see YouTube Steele Occupy Electoral Reform), Occupy was a loosely structured very very small mob, with only a semblance of cohesion in NYC and a couple of other places. Occupy was -- and perhaps remains -- its own worst obstacle. It lacks the ability to settle on a leadership structure authorized to engage the labor unions, the six small political parties blocked from the ballot by the two-party tyranny, or the Independents now quasi controlled by IndependentVoting.org, a virtual front for Michael Bloomberg. DISCLOSURE: I ran for President in 2012, accepted by the Reform Party, to put all the ideas in one place (We the People Reform Coalition) and to personally engage every other presidential candidate, all of whom failed the test -- not a single one was willing to come together on the one issue that could help us all, electoral reform. I briefed my findings to Hackers on Planet Earth and published the lessons learned in Reality Sandwich, look for "How I Tested the Boundaries of the Two-Party Tyranny.") My opinions may annoy, but they are rooted in real-world experience. Buried within one of the interviews that were put together to create this book, is an emphasis on the need to reconstruct politics and the media to become community-based -- bottom-up, face-to-face, community-based. I do not believe that Occupy has heard this message, but in fairness to them, neither have the Independents, the small parties, the labor unions, the angry young veterans, the debt-burdened students, or the volatile soccer moms seeing the American dream melting down before their wine-soaked pill-hazed eyes. Chomsky is positive about the USA (as am I, continuing to believe in the Constitution, the Republic, America the Beautiful and the big heart of the average American). His prescription begins to disappoint the more I read it in answer to virtually every issue (foreign policy, capitalism): read, write, organize, outreach. I certainly agree, but what continues to frustrate me, just as it has frustrated Lee Iacocca and John Bogle, among others: where have all the leaders gone? Mobs may not like the idea of leaders, but the fact is that leaders are catalysts for change and a major lever for achieving change: two kinds of leaders, direct (lead people) and indirect (lead ideas). Chomsky's observation that social media trivializing relations between and among people is in my view very important. This tallies with his earlier observation that we have to get the public -- not just isolated banks of committed activists -- back into public governance. The concept of solidarity and mutual support systems is touched on but not developed.

This could be a book in and of itself -- if one takes all of the core policies and core threats and devises localized solutions that do not need the government and do not need big agriculture, big energy, big health, big "justice" and so on, one has the beginning of a revolution. As John Perry Barlow has so famously said about the Internet (it interprets censorship as an outage and routes around it) so the time may have come to begin routing around state and national government, and start over from ground zero -- the local community. Chomsky offers some very helpful observations about the intersection of public relations and propaganda as a business; the incapacity of labor unions, the willful default of the "mainstream" media, and of course the prostitution of every president since JFK was assassinated, with Reagan and Clinton especially anti-labor and destroying hope for tens of millions of hard-working US citizens now not counted among the unemployed (the federal statistics are outright lies -- the real unemployment rate is 22.4%, see [shadowstats.com](http://shadowstats.com) where John Williams dishes out truth with a vengeance). This book is praised by Chomsky: *America Beyond Capitalism: Reclaiming Our Wealth, Our Liberty, and Our Democracy*, 2nd Edition. These are books I have referred to in my comments above (I have written a summary of each book here at [Griftopia: A Story of Bankers, Politicians, and the Most Audacious Power Grab in American History](#)). *A Power Governments Cannot Suppress*, *State of the Unions: How Labor Can Strengthen the Middle Class, Improve Our Economy, and Regain Political Influence*, *Grand Illusion: The Myth of Voter Choice in a Two-Party Tyranny*, *Where Have All the Leaders Gone?*, *The Battle for the Soul of Capitalism*, *The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to a Moral Economy*, *Who Stole the American Dream?*, *Transforming Leadership*. I put the book down glad that Chomsky is still speaking out, and depressed at how much time has been wasted since Occupy first had a glimmer of the path to power. Had we Occupied the home offices of the Members of Congress and demanded the Electoral Reform Act that so many of us came together to create (see the eleven-point Electoral Reform Act at [BigBatUSA](#) with important contributions from Richard Winger and Eva Waskill among others) -- or had Ron Paul actually BEEN a real Libertarian and been willing in 2012 to invite Dennis Kucinich to be VP and campaign with a Coalition Cabinet such as I put together in 2012, America the Beautiful would be restored today. Time is the one strategic variable that cannot be replaced nor purchased. It's time we give our existing Congress and President a choice, in time for 2014: pass the Electoral Reform Act of 2014. We do not lack for solutions, for money, or for integrity among the people. We lack for leadership and a will to come together. Best wishes to all, Robert David STEELE Vivas

THE OPEN SOURCE EVERYTHING MANIFESTO: Transparency, Truth, & Trust

So much of Chomsky's work leaves me frustrated and depressed - he brings out things that we all

should know, but that we don't because the major news outlets don't pick them up. Or maybe I have just somehow unintentionally picked the books that focus on the problems. This book, a series of interviews about Occupy, focuses on how we try to fix the problems rather than pointing out the egregious things that our government is doing in our names.

This short, easy read clearly identifies the philosophical basis for the Occupy movement, and justification for all of us being pissed at our government. Chomsky identifies the basis of the REAL class war that is now in progress, and examines the complicity of virtually all administrations since 1970 in waging a war of propaganda against the middle class, a war that has led to the willing surrender of wealth by the middle class to the top one tenth of one percent, and the isolation of individuals and communities from their brothers around the country and around the world - the virtual rise of otherness that has made us look at those with whom we should be cooperating with suspicion and hatred. For such a small book, it speaks volumes for the principles of Solidarity.

I am a Chomskian. I love him and all his work - whether on theoretical linguistics or on politics. I now have twenty different books of his and I still can't have enough of them. Long live Noam Chomsky. I wish him a very long and healthy life. May God bless you.

Nice size to carry the book with you. About the content, Chomsky shares his clear reflections with us once again.

Brilliant Writer ..everybody should read it for political science student

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