The Indispensable Chomsky

Noam Chomsky

Also by Noam Chomsky

Determining Democracy

Explanatory Footnotes Available at

www.understandingpower.co.uk
The Fraud of Modern Economics

And just a comment: we should really get on the modern trajectory of the economy. There was a time when understanding could be achieved with the help of computational tools and models. However, modern economics, due to the complex nature of data, requires a blend of traditional economic understanding and computational tools to arrive at robust conclusions. This chapter reviews the history of economic thought and highlights the importance of understanding economic principles.
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Understanding Power

Man: But did you think of what I said earlier about the problem of power? The question is: Why is power so difficult to grasp? It seems so obvious that we can always see the effects of power, but what do we mean by power? Is it the ability to control or influence others? It seems simple, but the problem is that power is a complex concept that cannot be easily defined or measured. The best way to understand power is to think about it in terms of its effects on human behavior. Power is a tool that can be used to manipulate others, and it is often used to maintain control over people. So, what is power? It is the ability to control or influence others through the use of force or the threat of force.

Man: That's a good definition, but it's not very satisfying. Power is not just about control and manipulation. It's also about influence and persuasion. People are not always willing to be controlled or manipulated. They resist, and they fight back. Power is a dynamic force, and it changes over time. The best way to understand power is to think about it in terms of its effects on human behavior. Power is a tool that can be used to manipulate others, and it is often used to maintain control over people. So, what is power? It is the ability to control or influence others through the use of force or the threat of force.

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The Real Market

The real market is where the prices of goods and services are determined. It is not subject to government intervention or manipulation. In the real market, supply and demand determine prices. When supply exceeds demand, prices tend to fall. When demand exceeds supply, prices tend to rise.
But these policies were a result of planning—they had nothing to do with the "free market." Actually, the most dramatic example of these "market distortions," that are caused by regulations, is the textile workers of India. In fact, they could take Texas, which was the major cotton-producing area, and go on and on. The United States annexed Texas in 1845. And the British were beginning to build railroads in the 1820s. They were producing more than all of Europe combined—the British just destroyed it. By the equivalent of what we would today call "structural adjustment," the British just destroyed it. And that's the capital of Bangladesh—the absolute symbol of disaster. And it's in the exact same way that the British destroyed India. It's called "structural adjustment," economic policies from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund which expose Third World economies to foreign protection and control.

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If you're reading this book, you've already seen the power of information. The way we use information in our daily lives is as integral to our survival as food or water. Information is the currency of our modern world, and those who control it control the world. But how do we use information? How do we decode the messages that surround us? And what happens when we're wrong about the information we think we know?

In this chapter, we'll explore the power of information and how it shapes our world. We'll look at the ways in which information is gathered, analyzed, and distributed, and we'll examine the consequences of getting it right—or wrong.

Understanding Power

Information

The timeless truth of life is that we are shaped by the stories we tell ourselves. These stories, in turn, are shaped by the information we receive. But what happens when the information is incorrect? And what happens when we believe it?

The power of information is immense. It can make or break a person, a group, or even a nation. It can influence our decisions, shape our beliefs, and change the course of history. But how do we know what information to trust? And how do we ensure that the information we receive is accurate?

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A Revolutionary Change in Moral Values

The question is whether or not we should accept this idea. It is not a matter of being right or wrong. We can accept it, put it aside, or ignore it. The choice is ours, but it is important to consider the implications of our decisions.

In recent years, there has been a significant shift in moral values. The traditional values that have guided society for generations are no longer accepted as the norm. This has led to a change in the way we think about ethics and morality.

The shift in values has been influenced by various factors, including technological advancements, globalization, and changing social norms. These changes have led to a reevaluation of what is considered right and wrong.

The shift in values has also been accompanied by a change in the way we approach ethical questions. Instead of relying solely on tradition, we now consider a wider range of factors when making moral decisions.

This change in values has implications for our personal lives, our relationships, and our society as a whole. It requires us to be more open-minded and flexible in our thinking.

In conclusion, the shift in moral values is a complex and ongoing process. It is important for us to be aware of this change and to consider its implications for our lives and society.

Chapter Seven

Man: No man is an island, closed off into himself; every man is the product of great institutions. The one you've been discussing

- Understand the notion of moral values and how they have evolved over time.
- Analyze the impact of technological advancements on moral values.
- Consider the role of ethics in decision-making.
- Reflect on the implications of changing moral values on personal and societal levels.

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