



Footnote to “Endgame 2012” - #OWS

J.R. Scott - TypeHost Free Press, 11/26/2011

Support the 28th Amendment - Abolish War & Nuclear Weapons

“Peace, Solidarity, & Consciousness” - Trivandrum, Kerala - India

On Sat, Nov 26, 2011 at 7:34 AM, Noam Chomsky wrote:

Chomsky: “Read your letter with interest, but not, frankly, much comprehension. A few comments below.”

From: Jeffrey Scott

Sent: Friday, November 25, 2011 2:49 PM

To: Noam Chomsky

Subject: Re: The 28th Amendment - The Abolition of War & Nuclear Weapons

Dr. Chomsky

Namaste. Watching some of your #ows videos from India. a few questions:

1. In one interview, you are discussing the #ows movement in terms of a protest against the “fiscal” policies that benefit Wall St., the financial sector, banks, big business, corporate profits, etc. but you fail to mention how this interrelates with the military industrial complex and prison industrial complex.

Chomsky: “Not sure what interview you are referring to, but I am sure there are a great many interviews where I do not refer to these or far more crucial problems, all of which, including these, I’ve discussed elsewhere. Same with ever interview or article or book by anyone else. It’s plainly impossible to refer to all topics in a single interview. I don’t see your point.”

My only point here is that it is a point that bears repeating, that the military, prison, and financial policies are interrelated and sustain each other, creating a social system that is repressive and offensive to human dignity for people who experience it, especially the marginalized, the poor, the “Third World”. The poor in America are filling the prisons and the “Third World” are the fodder on the other end of the bombs generally in America’s wars. In categorizing the abuse of power undertaken by institutions operating “above the law” or through State privilege, the deprivation of life by government policies through war and the deprivation of liberty to individuals through imprisonment are particularly fundamental problems that relate to the basic human rights every person should enjoy equally. Capitalism is being used as a justification for these actions historically by American policies, leadership, and their rhetoric.

Nevertheless, #ows is teaching me something of the difference between “hard” violence, which operates through the fist, the bomb, the bullet, torture, and the detention cell, vs. “soft” violence which operates pervasively through economic policies which limit the access to education, healthcare, and life opportunities. In a utilitarian framework, it may be that the “soft” violence is more pervasive in America and internationally, affects more people, is more hidden and interrelated with programmed social values, customs, accepted norms, hierarchies of power, and structural issues, whereas the “hard” violence is more limited and symbolic in application. I have tended to see it as being more critical to stop the instances of “hard” violence as a factor of emergency response or saving lives, whereas the focus on fiscal policy has a much broader range of possibility for improving the quality of life for a larger number of people in the same context. Environmental violence can be similarly related to protection policies on the same basis of interpretation, with a larger number of sentient beings and their lives at stake. From this, maybe it is I who have been too limited or focused on one issue over another, due to my own ingrained biases.

2. This relates to the broader peace movement and its goals since the protests against the Vietnam War, i.e. in what generations of activists, peace seekers, hippies, etc. have been seeking since Woodstock. When you discuss what the alternatives to the “corruption” that favors the 1% or represents only a fraction of the 1% who are permitted an active or consequential role in politics, it seems that #ows is suggesting an alternative of direct, active, participative democracy that is also interested in a reform of policy according to moral standards. But doesn’t fiscal policy refer

to a type of "Military Keynesianism" where Wall St. & the Fed are actually enabling the violence, or the ability of the American State to organize violence globally through war and defense spending, fueling the military industrial complex and the export of wars across the world rather than a proper respect for human rights and the respect for self determination of people? The police state aspects are the domestic application of the same militarization of policy and control of people through fear, intimidation, incarceration, KGB/CIA, etc. and are the basis of enabling the torture and terror that is exported abroad through the military policy. Is #ows a "Velvet Revolution" in America? Only conversion of the military industrial complex or prohibiting the State from legally organizing war (i.e. Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution) will really solve the problem, and it seems the entire philosophical opposite of the corporate sponsored war system is non-violence expressed through environmental protection and human rights. Is Congress being replaced by real, participatory democracy on the Athenian model in local #ows councils? Do you believe it will continue with people occupying public institutions non-violently in civil disobedience and critical resistance until the police State and military industrial complex is shut down in America, and declared bankrupt, by re-organizing the financial system that enables it?

Chomsky: "To rephrase in simple words, OWS is not proposing programs to solve every human problem. That's correct."

3. "The Third World" - isn't this a pejorative? The so-called "Third World" suffers inordinately, this is the location of generations of people who have never been accorded a position of participation in the global system, where billions survive on just a few dollars a day, where access to education is difficult, where clean water, electricity, basic sanitation facilities, and even adequate nutrition can be so difficult for families to procure, as in SE Asia, Africa, etc. Isn't part of the critique of #ows the moral failure of the system in America to address this while instead focusing on the construction of the police state and world empire? This is fundamental to the Martin Luther King Jr. vision, the needs to dedicate the resources of the most wealthy and #1 economy in the world to solidarity with the global poverty problem, through human rights institutions, and also the moral use of wealth, as in a real "good neighbor policy". Isn't it the tragedy of modern America that the wealth of the nation, its good will, intelligence, ideals, capital, and policy was not put to more altruistic use? Instead of the exporting of war and violence around the world, the nuclear monopoly and its terror, how much more is to be gained by sponsoring and organizing free education and healthcare globally? Environmental protection rather than environmental destruction? Why I raise this issue is because it seems that the "Third World" is not a collection of people to be feared and hoped not to be like, but rather a collection of some of the most valued, long suffering, truthful, and traditional people on the planet, the indigenous, with much to teach a globalized society but generally lacking any voice due to the domination of the corporate model in mainstream media around the world. The "Third World" is certainly not welcome in America, and immigration policy is a testament to that. But isn't the Statue of Liberty standing for something else, and the whole #ows a conservative movement to return to the true meaning of what that stands for? Americans can travel anywhere in the world with their passport and dollar, but what percentage of the world's population could ever attain a visa to enter the United States? If the "Third World" in the USA is primarily Native American Indians, then it is fairly clear the deeper issues the society needs to address. If America is converting the swords to plowshares and adopting the Millennium Goals / Peace Corps model rather than the current system of occupy and control through military threat, war, and violence, it seems that solidarity and understanding of the "Third World" is more important than seeking to exclude its existence from America.

Chomsky: "To my knowledge, you're pushing an open door."

3. Overjoyed to see you at Occupy Boston, and very inspirational. A lot of my friends in India are very interested to study the Gandhian aspects of #ows. The pepper-spray incident at U.C. Davis seemed to mark a critical paradigm shift against police violence in America. I can only really marvel at the strength and power of the non-violent protesters on the front lines and their commitment. It is an important time in a Satyagraha movement when the moral consciousness in a society shifts. From here, it seems like the occupy protests could grow, organically and spontaneously like the "Arab Spring" to lead to a complete shut-down and re-organization of the government in Ameri-

The government is virtually bankrupt and there is growing recognition that the policies are unsustainable, hateful, and contrary to social justice internationally. If the Khemer Rouge is on trial for war crimes now, 40 years after their regime, and Tibetans are still protesting their occupation, like Palestine, 60 years later, what will it take to recover from an unjust war like Iraq in America so the State can never commit such an injustice again? Guatemala has so much to teach America, but what of responsibility there for the killings?

As you know, my policy solutions are:

Chomsky: “Perhaps I should know, but I don’t. Thanks for sending me your suggestions, but why to me?”

JRS: *The only reason is I love and respect your work.*

28th Amendment - Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution

HH Dalai Lama Peace Policy - American Zone of Ahimsa - Demilitarization, Environmental Protection, & Human Rights- Proposition 1 - HR 1334 - <http://prop1.org/prop1/HR-1334.htm>

The Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

+ “The Abolition of War & Nuclear Weapons.”

“Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order:

(1) The American people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

(2) To accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”

+ International: Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Article_9_of_the_Japanese_Constitution

+ May it be enacted swiftly.

As a side note: \$1 billion in advertising for the U.S. presidency... do you really believe that is a large amount? How many billionaires in the USA? How many billion dollar companies? Groupon is a \$4 billion dollar IPO only. Netflix is a \$3.7 billion USD company after crashing 75%. AAPL only is a \$340 Billion USD company. How many billions of dollars is MIT only worth? GDP is \$15.5 trillion and the national debt is \$15.5 trillion. One billion USD only decides who controls all of that, plus the global economy? Seriously? That is only about \$3 per person for \$350 million people in America. I am not sure why one billion dollars in political advertising is even mentioned next to \$3.5 TRILLION to \$12 TRILLION dollars in Wall St. Bailouts, TARP, Quantitative Easing, etc. or the tax burden. One billion is one man’s net worth in America. Why is that an outrage in political costs in a modern media environment when it is minimal in comparison of the control the President has on GDP? Why is 3.5 billion people living on \$3 per day not an outrage?

Video Interview with Noam Chomsky on #Occupy Protests referenced in this discussion (2011):

+ Noam Chomsky on Occupy Wall Street protests: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wtHTh6NZXc>

REFERENCE: On Wed, Nov 3, 2010 at 7:05 AM, Noam Chomsky wrote:

“I certainly approve of the sentiment, but unless a popular movement is organized that is dedicated to this aim, I don’t see how this initiative could achieve very much.”

---> NOTE: this is one year before #OWS... would it have made a difference if Chomsky advocated the 28th Amendment as a solution for world peace & nuclear disarmament via global solidarity at #Occupy-Boston?

From: Jeffrey Scott
Sent: Tuesday, November 02, 2010 12:12 PM
To: Noam Chomsky
Subject: Fwd: The 28th Amendment - The Abolition of War & Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Chomsky

I attended Critical Resistance 1998 in Berkeley, and 12 years later I have seen no change. Can you get behind this:

The Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:
+ **“The Abolition of War & Nuclear Weapons.”**

“Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order:

(1) The American people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

(2) To accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”

+ **International: Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution:** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Article_9_of_the_Japanese_Constitution
+ **May it be enacted swiftly.**

Proposition One: <http://prop1.org/>

Sign the petition online: <http://www.petitiononline.com/LOVE2012/petition.html>

Can you give me one essay or blog post supporting this solution? Thanks.

Jeffrey Scott
TypeHost Web Development
<http://typehost.com>

REFERENCE LINKS:

Critical Resistance: <http://criticalresistance.org/resources/the-abolitionist-toolkit/>

Noam Chomsky at #OWS Boston Protests:

+ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olxp34z_Mns

+ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-d0dhNxu1k>

+ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHse0oaddr8>

Read More of this Debate in: “Endgame 2012 - A Plan for America, A Plan for World Peace”

+ <http://typehost.com/peace/Endgame2012.pdf>

H.R. 1650: <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1650>