



## **ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS ON POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICIES IN AVRAM NOAM CHOMSKY'S HOPES AND PROSPECTS**

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Prioritizing the pursuit of power, both military and economic, paves way for the violation of human rights, democracy and security. Imperial power implicitly or explicitly prevails in various power domains. Avram Noam Chomsky, a famous American philosopher, linguist, social critic, cognitive scientist, historian and political activist, has contributed largely to literature and is best known for his critical assessment, socio-political analysis and economic history, varying from each country. His *Hopes and Prospects* explores the challenges people face in the early twenty first century because of politics and envisions the progress of civilians towards justice and freedom through global solidarity movements. The paper proposes to analyse Chomsky's *Hopes and Prospects* to unearth the politics of North America and South America that extends from a minor level of district and state politics to a major level of global politics. It also examines the public choice of the people of North and South America and also the political implications of foreign policies based on the deconstruction and reconstruction of politics, geography and language.

Avram Noam Chomsky born on December 7, 1928 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A is well known as a linguist. He did his education at the University of Pennsylvania and also did his post-graduation at Harvard Society of Fellows. His discipline is Linguistics, Analytic Philosophy, Cognitive Science and Political Criticism. He is a present professor emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a laureate professor at the University of Arizona. Chomsky is a well-known scholar, but also a philosopher, cognitive scientist, social critic, historian and a political activist. Chomsky before showing interest in linguistics was much more interested in global politics, policies, the spoils of war and the corporate mindset which are the major causes of the political implications of the foreign policies of the twenty first century.

Politics has been progressive from the olden days and is still progressing, seeking domains of influence and power. The term Politics is not as bad as it sounds as until Niccolo Machiavelli's *The Prince* influenced people around Europe to utilize the power of politics as it is today. Politics has now become a commodity where anyone can use it to gain power, status or money for personal benefits and public benefits. In a world where people give importance to goods and services, profit and loss, not everyone is obsessed for personal benefits.

Chomsky in his *Hopes and Prospects* brings out a clear image of politics and reveals its corresponding source of manifestation. The politics that has been played at Latin America by North America (U.S.A) is a good example of politics in the twenty first century. Though Chomsky is a resident of Philadelphia, U.S.A., he explains the politics that has been played in Latin America through the means of foreign policies. He questions the ethics of political power and the advantage politicians take through the use of foreign policies.



Foreign policies are necessary components to sustain balance between countries and also helps to maintain balance within countries. The implementation of foreign policies is not only to safeguard mutual understanding, but also mutual interests and mutual gains. The primary objective of the United States is to secure the control over Latin America to prove its worth of being an example to neighbouring countries. “If the United States could not control Latin America, it could not expect “to achieve a successful order elsewhere in the world” (37).

The country of Haiti in the Caribbean shares its land with the Dominican Republic and was the earliest example of democracy. The country faced an unexpected war and is now facing unexpected foreign policies to survive the outcome of the past. The implementation of foreign policies does not largely lie at the interest of the government, but at the interest of the corporates who manipulate the outcome of a policy at the benefit of profits. Haiti could not resist the implementation of foreign policies as it was already in debt because of the spoils of war to the International Monetary Funds (IMF) which is under the U.S. government.

Venezuela is a country in South America which is rich in oil deposits and has been successful in exporting oil to South America and China. This country has also been implemented of foreign policies and later was able to pay off their debt to the IMF. Venezuela is profited by corporate companies around the globe by producing low-cost oil which gains a huge amount of profit.

Brazil is the largest country in both South America and Latin America and is also known as “farmer of the world” (69). Brazil was under pressure to accept foreign policies after their independence, but is one of the most successful countries in the world opposing foreign policies after clearing their debt to the IMF through the help they got from Venezuela. Brazil still has traces of colonization, but is much more independent than any other colonized countries.

In 2005, Argentina was asked to pay a debt of \$1 trillion and had a hard time paying it because of IMF policies and somehow managed to recover from the economic crunch and the loss of GDP left by those policies. Chomsky explains how countries are plunged into dire situations if they are not able accept or listen to the implementation of foreign policies. He also states the fact that if the benefactors such as corporate conglomerates lose their means of profit because of setbacks, they would do anything to get back what they lost.

The universal declaration of Human Rights has brought about a massive change in the lifestyle of various countries globally and later there was promotion to liberalism and now the public can question according to their rights. These rights later paved a way for corporate industries to find a way to start neo-liberalism which gives ‘free market capitalism’ access to corporate or private companies and these companies are given freedom to do marketing as they please by following protocols because each company is registered under the name of the founder and this makes the company a single component referring only to the human being who owns the company.

The private sectors that run each country through market economy are privileged to make a change in policies because their share helps the country move forward. These sectors manage their way to government policies and later retain their stand in the society through “structural adjustment” (106) where they can increase their share in profits tenfold by exploiting the policies that favors the people.

People have become a commodity where corporate sectors manipulate the interests of the people accordingly to the ideals of their own and as a matter of fact ‘public choice’ is the most important aspect regarding any nation and it is the views of the public that leads a country to victory or to ruins, the public view over the years have been manipulated and are now easily distracted from one sense of ideal to another. Public opinion can now be managed by means of perception management and because of



such management organizations, public choice has now become 'private choice'. The diminishing ethics in politics can be seen from the superior role of privatization.

The comprehensive factor that privatization can monopolize the choice of the public has been noted down by the governments and this results in the mutual understanding between private sectors and governmental sectors to play politics wherever necessary as long as there is a common gain for both parties. The most common ground where both parties can gain from each other is war and this led to many problems because of the ideals of single mindedness and the truth can be found only if history can be retraced. The significance of each war that took place over the course of time portrays a substantial meaning, but the true reason is always hidden by the one who wins the war.

The war at Haiti, Bolivia, Venezuela, Gaza, India, Israel, Pakistan, China, Japan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Syria, Gaza and Palestine are all based on the contrary ideals of each country. This sense of unnecessary conflict brings out a perplexed situation where each side loses more than what they gain. The cause of most wars that break out is because of the deliberate action which took place and the cause is because of "a basic principle of modern state capitalism is that cost and risk are socialized to the extent possible, while profit is privatized" (114). Chomsky states the serious effects of privatization that risks millions of people at a global level.

The art of war is where policy becomes a fallacy to override the legitimate structure of diplomacy to means of violence. The UN Charter after the war clearly states that there should be Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) between countries to maintain peace and there should also be nuclear war free zone in the West and also in the Middle East, but certain countries exploit this treaty by politicizing situations to use the war free zones such as U.S.A which is in total power over nuclear weapons.

The U.S. military regime planned to have a military base at Iraq and Afghanistan and planned to start 'Ballistic Missile Defense' (BMD) after Osama Bin- laden was defeated and this created security problems for the Russians because the military base was near to them and the U.S. could attack them at any time, these intolerable acts of diplomacy made the Russian president to take action through submarines installed with nuclear warheads and he said "We will be obliged to redirect our missiles at installations which we firmly believe pose a threat to our national security, Putin warned: I am obliged to say this openly and honestly today" (173).

War helps privatization prosper because there is more of supply and demand, a private company can always supply weapons to both countries and multiple countries that are at war. Chomsky says that Haiti and Bangladesh were once the sparkling jewels in the crown of empire and are now the very symbols of misery and despair. He says that Haiti is an illustration of poverty rightly after the settlement of the French and India which is a classic example of democracy was in shackles after the colonization of the British.

The result of war of the past has given another opportunity for private companies to invest, especially companies who hold superior military power over countries. "Zbigniew Brzezinski describes from his perspective that the systems based on nonexistent defense technology, designed against a nonexistent threat, and designed to protect West Europeans, who weren't asking for the protection" (199). Chomsky quotes Zbigniew to portray the role of defense in each country; it is common knowledge that the more number of defenses a country has the more superior it is to other nations.

Chomsky argues that over the years Western powers exercise their 'responsibility to protect' adhering closely to the maxims of Thucydides and Adam Smith where in the actual sense policies become fallacies. He in fact says that the western notions to educate and to protect other countries are



the factors that lead to privatization. He quotes Gandhi's response about Western Civilization who allegedly have said that "It would be a good idea" (278) to learn something from the west, but unlike any country "America was born as an idea and is now abiding a transcendent purpose but has lost its way abusing the reality we live in" (21). Chomsky is able to see how the country he lives in moving away from the idealism that it once had before its independence declining in its ethical prospects of politics and power.

Chomsky in *Hopes and Prospects* states the various power domains that overrule the world and also how neo-liberalism paved its way into implementing policies. He also says that there are some hopes and prospects in the twenty first century because Germany and Spain lead in the development of 'solar energy', China is dedicating itself to substantial 'green revolution', the United States are the largest market of wind turbines and they have all rejected the financial liberalization of the neo-liberal era. According to Chomsky, the ethical implication of politics and foreign policies is an impending problem that should be given more importance to be resolved as soon as possible.

He also states that Latin America and Caribbean have global roots to global solidarity and have taken a step forward for true globalization where, there is an international integration in the interests of the people and not in investors and concentrators of power. Chomsky's *Hopes and Prospects* is clearly understood that the major issues that rise from foreign policies should be taken seriously and can be solved through re-conceptualized ideas and movements of global solidarity.

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