A balanced assessment of the insights and shortcomings of Noam Chomsky's positions on politics and foreign policy

Chomsky's Challenge to American Power
A Guide for the Critical Reader
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Noam Chomsky is a pioneering scholar in the field of linguistics, but he is better known as a public intellectual: an iconoclastic, radical critic of US politics and foreign policy. Chomsky's Challenge examines most of the major subjects Chomsky has dealt with in his nearly half century of intellectual activism:

- the Vietnam War
- America's broader international role (especially its interventions in the Third World)
- the structure of power in American politics
- the role of the media and of intellectuals in forming public opinion
- American foreign policy in the post-Cold War world

Chomsky is as controversial as he is influential. Admirers see him as a courageous teller of unpleasant truths about political power and those who wield it in the United States. Critics view him as a propagandist and ideologue who sees only black and white where there are multiple shades of gray. While Chomsky's fans tend to view him uncritically, his critics often don't take him seriously. Unlike any previous work, this book takes Chomsky seriously while treating him critically. The author gives Chomsky credit for valuable contributions to our understanding of the contemporary political world, but spares no criticism of the serious deficiencies he sees in Chomsky's political analyses.

Anthony Greco is an independent scholar. He received his PhD in political science from Columbia, then had a thirty-five-year career in financial, business, and public policy analysis in the public and private sectors. A frequent diarist on the Daily Kos website, Greco is an associate of the Columbia University Seminar on Twentieth-Century Politics and Society.