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Interview with Noam Chomsky, philosopher and activist

"Neoliberalism is a misleading term, we live a class war"



Sources: Rebellion

At the end of last January, the expert group of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists placed the symbolic hands of the "End of the World Clock" at 90 seconds to midnight, justifying this new adjustment by the risks of the war in Ukraine.

The Clock, whose midnight marks the end of human presence on Earth, also includes as a factor the consequences of the Climate Emergency. Such a limit moment, unprecedented in human life, develops or is a consequence of a certain social context and in this sense Noam Chomsky's diagnosis is lapidary.

The laureate Professor currently conducts a program at the University of Arizona and on whom no further presentation is required, agreed to answer inquiries via email to El

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Mostrador, on what he estimates are the approaches that should occupy our time in the present, warning that the cultural agenda of the Right has a distractive function.

A while ago We comment if you saw any parallels between the present and the Weimar Republic in some sense: economic crisis, rise of violence, the rise of the far right, and you told me yes They had similar aspects, it was not precisely because of their level cultural. Do you think we live in times of poverty in terms of creation? and cultural debate?

I see something different. For over 40 years, we have been living in a Savage class war period, deceptively called "neoliberalism". The term has an official definition in terms of dependence on markets, but practice reveals that the reality is very different. The war started strongly in The United States and the United Kingdom, with gifts to the very rich (the economic deregulation-bailout, etc.) and a harsh attack on work, opening the doors to the business sector to undermine the main means of defense against savage class war, trade unions, commonly using illegal means, but that's small Importance when they largely control a lawless state. Due to the global power of the United States, the war spread by great It took various forms. The very respectable Rand corporation gave a measure of its success in the United States with a study that estimated the transfer of wealth of 90% of Lower income to top 1% income: about \$50 billions, a robbery in broad daylight quite impressive. The Effects in the global south have been more extreme. Enthusiasts of the system rightly welcome the enormous reduction in poverty, overwhelmingly in China, which isn't exactly a model of free enterprise capitalism. And a closer look finds that In this case too, behind the political decisions there was fundamental considerations of class struggle that were far from be the only effective means available; The alternatives that would have benefited workers in both rich countries as in the poor they were discarded without consideration.

While the right-wing leaders seem focused on other issues, Ron DeSantis, Florida governor and presidential candidate, he said. that to protect freedom it is necessary to restrict some books because they can "impose" a certain cultural hegemony or a unique historical account, refers to books on sexuality, denunciations of racism and social struggles, for example. In his notion of freedom it is necessary to restrict access to this type of literature, How did it come to this?

The Party Republican long ago ceased to be a normal political party. It has become a "radical insurgency" that has abandoned parliamentary rules, using the terms of the political analysts Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein of American Enterprise Institute.

We can trace your ancestry back to Richard Nixon, who recognized that Republicans could not win the Elections as the more extreme of the two business parties in the United States. Nixon's "Southern Strategy" Appealed Racism barely disguised to appeal to Southern Democrats to the Republican fold. A few years later, strategists Republicans realized that pretending to oppose abortion He would win the huge evangelical and Catholic vote of the North. Figures Highlights: George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan and others, changed quickly from "pro-choice" to "pro-life", in the standard jargon. Later, a love for weapons. The general principle is to divert attention from your social and economic policies of war against the workers and the poor to "cultural issues". It has been very successful, particularly in the hands of consummate demagogues like Trump. Your only Legislative achievement was a huge tax cut for the very rich and corporations, stabbing the rest in the back. But The "culture wars" have kept the base at bay popular. Now, nearly half of Republican voters think that the Democratic Party is led by a clique of pedophiles who "abuse" young

children. <https://www.vice.com/en/article/jgm9vd/republicans-democrats-pedophiles-poll>

Have been used techniques in Bolsonaro's massive propaganda campaigns in Brazil, probably with an American contribution, also with a Considerable success. Lula had to give a speech denying that Had a covenant with the devil. DeSantis is following the same libretto.

Another candidate to the Republican primaries, Vivek Ramaswamy says verbatim "We embrace secular religions such as 'climatism', the "covidism" and gender ideology to satisfy our search for meaning", Is it possible to qualify these approaches as Rational?

I doubt that even Their proponents pretend they are rational. They are not intended for Be. It is a question of appealing to the victims of war. of "neoliberal" classes, which has naturally led to anger, to the resentment, to the distrust of the population towards the institutions: fertile ground for Trump-type demagogues. A way of mobilizing a justified distrust towards the institutions is to promote "anti-scientism", Attributing science and rationality to the hated "elites", A notion used to hide real agents in the rooms of corporate boards and congressional offices.

The Anti-scientism has been largely driven by the sector business, for solid reasons of class struggle, issues explored in depth by Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway. Began with major tobacco industry campaigns to "sow doubts" about science so they could continue their campaigns of mass murder (and huge profits) unimpeded. Later It was taken up by

the fossil fuel industries for the far more far-reaching campaign to destroy human life organized on earth (and thus obtain greater profits). Herself easily spread to anti-science and irrationality. Organized: anti-vaccine movements and much more.

The first books that were burned in Nazi Germany were those of the Magnus Hirschfeld's library on sexuality studies, now in Day In ultra-right sectors there is also interest in limiting the development of certain sexual behaviors in people, that is basically by establishing a relationship between power, identity and birth rate or do you see something else?

There has always been A strange obsession with sex in Christian theology. Herself It easily extends to the means to meddle in life and People's behavior, the great ideal of totalitarianism.

Today people He reads fewer newspapers than before, and began to report through the social networks, a place without filters or responsible for the information, this only 90 seconds from midnight according to the Doomsday Clock, seems the recipe to accelerate the self-destruction.

Over the years of Trump, the analysts who set up the Doomsday Clock They abandoned the minutes and became seconds. In January 2003, the hands were advanced to 90 seconds by midnight. The relationship with public opinion is ominous. Recently conducted an extensive study on how Americans receive your 'information'. In "Generation Z" (born from 1997 to 2012), a small percentage read newspapers or watch news of television. They're even abandoning Facebook and turning to Sources that mostly feature young people having fun. That It's quite a bit apart from massive disinformation efforts. Herself sample in survey results. Returning to the Clock of the Last Judgment, the two main drivers of the passage to midnight (Apocalypse) are the growing threat of nuclear war, both in Europe as in Asia, and global warming. A survey Pew's recent offer respondents a selection of A few dozen options to sort in terms of urgency. Nuclear war was not even an option. The 'climate change', the standard euphemism for Global warming. It was classified near the bottom. Between Republicans, only 13% considered it an urgent issue, which It's not surprising when you consider what they hear from their leaders and echo chambers like Fox News.

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