



YOUR KINDLE NOTES FOR:

**Masters of Mankind:
Essays and Lectures,
1969-2013**

Noam Chomsky

Last accessed on Sunday October 6,
2019**2 Highlight(s) | 0 Note(s)**

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,827

Let us move on to some hard problems. Perhaps none is more prominent today than “the evil scourge of terrorism,” particularly state-backed international terrorism, a “plague spread by depraved opponents of civilization itself” in a “return to barbarism in the modern age.” So the plague was described when the “war on terror” was declared—not in September 2001 when it was redeclared, but twenty years earlier, by the same people and their mentors. Their “war on terror” instantly turned into a murderous terrorist war, with horrifying consequences in Central America, the Middle East, southern Africa, and elsewhere, but that is only history, not the history crafted by its custodians in the enlightened states. In more useful accepted history, the 1980s are described by scholarship as the decade of “state terrorism,” of “persistent state involvement, or ‘sponsorship,’ of terrorism, especially by Libya and Iran.” The US merely responded with “a ‘proactive’ stance toward terrorism,”¹⁷ and the same was true of its allies: Israel, South Africa, the clandestine terror network assembled by the Reaganites, and others. I will put to the side the radical Islamists organized and trained for the cause—not to defend Afghanistan, which would have been a legitimate goal, but to bloody the official enemy, probably prolonging the Afghan war and leaving the country in ruins, soon to become much worse as Western clients took over, with subsequent consequences that we need not mention. Gone from acceptable history are millions of victims of the real “war on terror” of the 1980s, and those seeking to survive in what is left of their devastated lands. Also out of history is the residual “culture of terror,” which “domesticates the aspirations of the majority,” to quote the survivors of the Jesuit intellectual community in El Salvador, in a conference surveying the actual but unacceptable history.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,222

The term “capitalism” is also commonly used for systems in which there are no capitalists: for example, the extensive worker-owned Mondragón conglomerate in the Basque Country of Spain or the worker-owned enterprises expanding in northern Ohio—often with conservative support—a matter discussed in important work by Gar Alperovitz.⁴ Some might even use the term “capitalism” to include the industrial democracy advocated by John Dewey, America’s leading social philosopher. He called for workers to be “masters of their own industrial fate,” and for all institutions to be under public control, including the means of production, exchange, publicity, transportation, and communication.⁵ Short of this, Dewey argued, politics will remain “the shadow cast on society by big business.”⁶ The truncated democracy that Dewey condemned has been left in tatters in recent years. Now, control of government is narrowly concentrated at the peak of the income scale, while the large majority “down below” are virtually disenfranchised. The current political-economic system is a form of plutocracy that diverges sharply from democracy, if by that concept we mean political arrangements in which policy is significantly influenced by the public will. There

Note:
