



Noam Chomsky on Propaganda and NATO:

The following Transcript may not be 100% accurate.

Prof. Noam Chomsky:

You learn a lot about propaganda and scholarship by looking at what happened when the Soviet Union collapsed. That's the best way to learn about the cold war.

What happened? In 1990 [there was] no more Soviet Union. What happened? Well first of all, what happened to NATO? NATO was established to protect Western Europe against the Russian hordes, theoretically. No more Russian Hordes, what happened to NATO? Was it dissolved? No, it was expanded. It expanded to the East, now right to the Russian Borders. There's a threat – even a threat of global war – because of [what is happening in] Ukraine. Because the mission of NATO was formally changed to protect the international energy system: sea lanes and pipelines. So it's a global system, and also a global intervention force, run by the United States, which tells you what it always was, and tells you something about anti-communism as a propaganda device.

Next thing that happened: [a] couple of weeks after the fall of the Berlin wall the United States invaded Panama – hundreds, maybe thousands of people, I mean the slums – all in order to kidnap someone who the US didn't like and who was finally tried for crimes, most of which he committed on the CIA payroll. Well, that's kind of normal. One difference: Here they couldn't appeal to the Russian threat, because there is no Russian threat. So it was Hispanic narco traffickers who were about to destroy us. That lasted a while, didn't work very well, then you have to invent new pretexts.

The Middle East is a very interesting case. The Bush administration – this is Bush number one – immediately had to issue a new national security strategy after the fall of the Russians. What it said is, "pretty much everything will go on as before, but with no pretexts". With the Middle East it said, "we must maintain the intervention forces aimed at the Middle East" – and then came a very interesting phrase – "where the serious threats to our interests could not have been laid at the Kremlin's door". In other words: "We've been lying to you for 50 years. It's not the Russians". It's what they call radical nationalism, independent nationalism. Where we still need the intervention forces to crush that.

So it continues, everything goes on, but with no pretexts. That tells us that our fifth filter was misstated. It's not *anti-communism*, it's whatever pretext is invented to justify the continuing processes of global intervention, subversion of force, of international treaties to support the interests of domestic capital and so on.