



## Rethinking Camelot: JFK, the Vietnam War, and U.S. Political Culture

By Noam Chomsky

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*Rethinking Camelot* is a thorough analysis of John F. Kennedy's role in the U/S. invasion of Vietnam and a probing reflection on the elite political culture that allowed and encouraged the Cold War. In it, Chomsky dismisses effort to resurrect Camelot—an attractive American myth portraying JFK as a shining knight promising peace, fooled only by assassins bent on stopping this lone hero who would have unilaterally withdraws from Vietnam had he lived. Chomsky argues that U.S. institutions and political culture, not individual presidents, are the key to understanding U.S. behavior during Vietnam.

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#### **About the Author**

Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston. A member of the American Academy of Science, he has published widely in both linguistics and current affairs. His books include *At War with Asia*, *Towards a New Cold War*, *Fateful Triangle: The U. S., Israel and the Palestinians*, *Necessary Illusions*, *Hegemony or Survival*, *Deterring Democracy*, *Failed States: The Abuse of Power and the Assault on Democracy* and *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*.

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