



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a shining knight promising peace, fooled only by assassins bent on stopping this lone hero who would have unilaterally withdrawn from Vietnam had he lived.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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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1345851 in Books
- Published on: 2015-04-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x .50" w x 5.40" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages



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"[Rethinking Camelot provides] strong arguments against Kennedy mythologists."

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"An interesting work not only for the history it explores, but also as a study of how various individuals and groups write and interpret history."

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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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