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Interview with Noam Chomsky

***"This confrontation is a death sentence for humanity, no one will win"***



**Sources:** The jump

*"A serious crime without justifications or mitigating factors", but at the same time a conflict that can only be understood by NATO's expansive policy. This is the starting point of the analysis offered by the thinker and activist Noam Chomsky in 'Why Ukraine', a key book to understand the complexity of a war that is marking an era. This interview is an excerpt from the book.*

The thinker, linguist, writer, philosopher and activist Noam Chomsky is one of the most lucid voices for understanding the world today. Through various conversations, the book Why Ukraine offers an overview of his thinking and understanding of the war between the

United States and Russia taking place in *Ukraine*. We offer you a fragment of the book, which you can take as a gift [if you subscribe this month to El Salto](#).



The interviews are accompanied by texts by political scientist Pablo Bustinduy, whose analytical focus focuses on the role of Europe in the face of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the need for the EU to find its place within the new international order of the twenty-first century.

Over the course of eight interviews citing confidential documents and explaining the most complex dynamics of relations between Russia, the United States, the Atlantic Alliance, the EU and China, Chomsky offers the reader what the media rarely manages to provide: the possibility of understanding the deeper reasons for the conflict and what is at stake. reflecting at the same time on the consequences and reactions at the economic, political and military level in the rest of the world.

In this book, Noam Chomsky exposes the causes of the invasion of Ukraine initiated by Russia in February 2022, starting from two fundamental premises: on the one hand, we are facing "a serious war crime for which explanations must be sought, but which has neither justifications nor mitigating factors"; on the other, we are witnessing an expansive move of NATO to the east, which deserves to be highlighted and analyzed.

**The Russian invasion is a clear violation of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, which prohibits the threat or use of force against the integrity of another State. Nevertheless, Putin has tried to present legal justifications for the invasion in his February 24 speech. Russia cites Kosovo, Iraq, Libya and Syria as evidence of repeated violations of international law by the United States and its allies. Can you comment on Putin's allegations of invasion and explain to us what state international law is in post-Cold War times?**

There is nothing to say about Putin's attempt to seek legal justification for his aggression: its value is equal to zero. Yes, it is true that the United States and its allies violate international law without batting an eyelid, but this does not serve as a mitigating factor for Putin's crimes. However, it is undeniable that Kosovo, Iraq and Libya have had a direct impact on the conflict in Ukraine.

The invasion of Iraq has been a textbook case, a sample of the crimes for which the Nazis were hanged in Nuremberg: a pure and simple unprovoked aggression. Plus a punch in the face to Russia.

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In the case of Kosovo, NATO's aggression — that is, the United States — was labeled "illegal but justified." It was defined this way, for example, by the Independent International Commission for Kosovo, chaired by Richard Goldstone, because the bombing was carried out to curb the atrocities taking place in the region. In order to write that sentence, it was necessary to change the course of events: there is overwhelming evidence that the wave of violence was the consequence — foreseeable, anticipated, anticipated — of the invasion. In addition, there were diplomatic avenues that could have been followed, but that were ignored (as always) to follow the path of force.

Senior U.S. officials confirm that it was, above all, the bombing of Russia's ally Serbia, which was not even put on notice, that changed the mind of the Russians, who were willing to work with the United States to build a new European security structure after the Cold War; a change of heart that accelerated with the invasion of Iraq and the bombing of Libya since Russia had agreed not to veto a UN Security Council resolution that NATO immediately violated.

Everything that is done has consequences, however much the facts may be hidden under the interests of the dominant doctrine.

International law has not changed after the Cold War, not even in words, let alone deeds.

El derecho internacional no ha cambiado después de la Guerra Fría, ni siquiera de palabra, por no hablar ya de los hechos. El presidente Clinton aclaró a su tiempo que Estados Unidos no tenía intención de respetarlo. La doctrina Clinton preveía que Estados Unidos se reservara el derecho de actuar “unilateralmente si era necesario”, e incluso el de recurrir “al uso unilateral del poder militar” para defender intereses vitales como “garantizar el acceso ilimitado al mercado, a las fuentes de energía y a los recursos estratégicos”. Y el mismo camino siguieron sus sucesores, y cualquiera que pueda violar la ley impunemente. No quiero decir que el derecho internacional carezca de valor. Ofrece margen de aplicabilidad y, en cierto sentido, es un modelo útil.

**La intención de la invasión rusa parece ser derrocar el Gobierno de Zelenski y colocar uno prorruso. En todo caso, vayan como vayan las cosas, Ucrania se enfrenta a un futuro descorazonador porque parece que se va a convertir en un peón en los juegos geoestratégicos de Washington. ¿Cuán probable es que las sanciones económicas lleven a Rusia a cambiar de posición respecto a Ucrania, o las sanciones tienen un objetivo más amplio, como debilitar el poder de Putin en Rusia y sus relaciones con países como Cuba, Venezuela o China?**

Es posible que Ucrania no haya hecho la elección más inteligente, pero quizá tampoco tenía muchas opciones delante de los Estados imperialistas. Sospecho que las sanciones harán que Rusia dependa todavía más de China. Salvo cambio drástico, Rusia es un petroestado cleptocrático y se basa en un recurso energético cuya utilización debe reducirse drásticamente; si no, estaremos acabados. No está claro que su sistema financiero pueda resistir un ataque consistente, sea a través de sanciones o de otras medidas. Una razón más para ofrecer, aunque sea a disgusto, una vía de escape.

We are at a critical moment in human history. We can't deny it, we can't ignore it.

**Do you think the invasion has ushered in a new era in the conflict between Russia (perhaps allied with China) and the West?**

It is perhaps too early to say where the ashes will be collected, and this might not be a metaphor. For now, China is playing its cards well and is likely to carry forward the project of economic integration of much of the world in its program of global expansion. A few weeks ago he incorporated Argentina into the initiatives of the New Silk Road, while witnessing how enemies destroy each other.

As I have said before, this confrontation is a death sentence for humanity, no one will come out on top. We are at a critical moment in human history. We cannot deny it, we cannot ignore it.

Source: <https://www.elsaltodiario.com/guerra-en-ucrania/entrevista-noam-chomsky-confrontacion-condena-muerte-humanidad-nadie-saldra-ganador>

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