

Professor Noam Chomsky, who needed no introduction, addressed a webinar Wednesday evening June 10 via Zoom on the occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary Membership Gathering of the Coalition for Peace Action. He was calm and encouraging even in the face of the dire realities he cited with stunning knowledgeability and perspectives.

“In the midst of this cataclysmic cesspool,” he began, “this stinking swamp, there is a window of opportunity: there are countrywide protests with support of the military after 400 years of hostility; Black Lives Matter is supported by two-thirds of the population. There is a change of consciousness.

Let us backtrack to January of this year. Every January the *Bulletin of Atomic Science* gauges the security of the world on the Doomsday Clock, first created after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings in 1947. At that time it was set at 7 minutes to doomsday. Each year of Donald Trump's (hereafter DT's) presidency, the minute hand has moved one minute closer; now they have had to boil it down to seconds, so it became 100 seconds.

There are three main units of destruction: the nuclear peril, environmental destruction, and the deterioration of democracy.

Agents of the destruction are Wall St. and the White House.

Re the PANDEMIC: scientists knew one was likely; we know how to handle epidemics, but there is no profit to be made by preventing catastrophes AND the neoliberal policy of the government as begun under Reagan, that government is the problem, not the solution (as Thatcher agreed), made sure that the government didn't step in.

G.H.W. Bush had an advisory committee; and the Obama administration was scientifically oriented; Obama ordered a study that figured out how to prevent a pandemic and put all mechanisms in place, but in 2017 DT dismantled it.

DOWN with intelligence!

Viva death!

The DT administration is UNscientific!

In 2017, the warning began of an impending pandemic; intelligence warned DT about it; and again in October 2019. In January 2020, China identified it and sequenced the genome; some countries went with it well in East Asia and Oceania; the Europeans then homed in on it; the US was at the bottom of the effective reactors.

On February 10, 2020, DT's budget defunded the Center for Disease Control and other organizations in the middle of the pandemic.

Instead there was support of fossil fuels BUT in March, the stock market began to plunge and DT declared an emergency, blaming this cataclysm on China and the WHO, on which the poor countries of the world depend for survival.

Kill them all, says DT, to further his own interests.

Democracy is disappearing after 350 years in England and 250 in the USA; so much of democracy depends on trust and good faith; according to the professor, England's constitution is only a few lines long.

Then Boris Johnson dissolved Parliament to pass Brexit.

DT has stripped the executive branch of personnel and all hires are appointed rather than approved by the Senate. Sen. Lisa Murkowski dared to question the president and was lambasted on Twitter with threats that he'd destroy her.

During the Obama administration, McConnell had one goal: to obstruct Obama's every move. In the DT administration there are two activities: pass legislation that favors the super-rich and stack the judiciary with young, extreme right lawyers.

Is that fascism? Don't give DT that much credit; Fascism is an ideology; you can't put it on Twitter. Trump's two letters are M-E: symptoms of **sociopathic megalomania**.

Democracy is in serious danger.

DT is dismantling all arms control treaties; he has begun to test weapons again; re the START treaty, Russia wants to prepare for negotiations, but Trump insists that China join in and Russia has countered with France, which has more weapons than China.

Re the environment, DT is doing all he can to escalate the race to the abyss, maximizing the use of fossil fuels, attacking regulatory systems, including that of air pollution, which mainly harms those who live near industry: blacks and poor people.

We have long ago passed the highest temperature and level of carbon dioxide; close to 3 million years ago the sea level was 50-80 feet higher than it is now. In 50 years, half the world will be uninhabitable.

This malignancy in the White House has its foot on the pedal to fill the pockets of the rich, period: unprecedented and indescribable

There is a purge of the committee of inspectors general who monitored the government for malfeasance; they were investigating the stinking swamp; the committee was created by Sen. Chuck Grassley; the rest of the GOP has turned its back on it.

This is an unbelievable moment: Australian scientists have publicized that one-half of the irreversible tipping points have been reached; I repeat, in 50 years half the world will be uninhabitable.

There's time to stop it.

Humans and many other species will become extinct.

There is a collapse of the traditional left-wing culture: the lifestyle of constant activism and the rule to vote against the worst and then get back to work; that mindset has disappeared; there is now the Never Biden movement; many Bernie supporters will stay home rather than vote for Biden.

A study of nonvoters done a few years ago showed that this group of 50% resembles Europeans who vote in labor-based parties; here there is no labor-based party but rather 40 years of neoliberal assault; wages have stayed low; 0.1% hold 20% of the wealth; 50% live from paycheck to paycheck.

Our health system is an international scandal. We do have Universal Healthcare in the form of ERs, the most savage form of it.

Left liberal columnists write that they like Bernie's policies but Americans are not ready for them: universal health care and free higher education, something every other country in the world has. In 1950 the GI Bill paid for tuition and living expenses, but only for white men. Blacks and women were excluded.

The neoliberals have robbed the American people of tens of trillions of dollars with their tax buybacks and other devices; everything must be free for the flow of capital.

Then each time they crash the economy, we bail them out.

But policy isn't written in stone; it can be changed.

Youth activism is exciting: occupation of Congressional offices with support by the freshman Congressional generation has insisted that the Green New Deal in some form must begin; it has brought us as far left as FDR did.

The chemical weapons treaty is in effect at the international but not state level; however,

What's happening on the streets is bringing about change and DT is fueling it!

The GOP is the denialist party; only 25% of them acknowledge that global warming is occurring; among the presidential candidates only John Kasich acknowledged it and said Ohio would use coal power.

In 2008 John McCain wanted environment legislation; the Koch brothers launched a juggernaut against it.

Mitt Romney occasionally speaks out against the tin-pot dictator.

This year discussions about the election ignore climate change and the threat of nuclear war, the two worst problems in human history.

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT OURSELVES?"