

Noam Chomsky on Donald Trump and the Decline of the US Empire

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Renowned U.S. intellectual **Noam Chomsky** welcomed a teleSUR team into his office at the **University of Arizona** to discuss the presidency of **Donald Trump** and the decline of an **empire**.

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"From the point of view of U.S. power, (Trump) is harming it, but from the point of view of U.S. elites, he's giving them everything they want," Chomsky said, describing the current administration as a "two-level wrecking ball."

The **political activist** and **cognitive scientist** went on to describe the incumbent U.S. president as a "con man."

"Everyday there's one insane thing after the other... and while this show is going on in public, in the background, the wrecking crew is working.

"What they're doing is systematically dismantling every aspect of government that

works for the benefit of the population. This goes from **workers' rights** to **pollution** of the **environment**, rules for protecting **consumers**, anything you can think of is being dismantled."

Chomsky reasoned that the ultra-wealthy, **Wall Street** and the constituents of those in power couldn't be more pleased with efforts made to increase their fortunes.

"That's why the **stock market** goes up: the stock market has not much to do with the **economy**, but it keeps booming because that's the rich people."

Chomsky pointed out that the decline of the **United States**, a trend tacitly expressed whenever Trump vows to "make America great again," began not recently but back in 1949 when **China** became independent.

The loss of China was followed, Chomsky said, by "**McCarthyism**, **repression** and the destruction of **unions**." It continued under President **John F. Kennedy** when he was weighing whether to escalate in **Vietnam** and said: "I don't want to be responsible for the loss of Indochina."

The decline of the U.S. empire further accelerated when **Europe** and other **industrial societies** reconstructed in the wake of **World War II**: "**decolonization** took place" and the empire has yet to recover, Chomsky said.
