

# When America's "Progressives" Pay Lip Service to Imperialism. The Anti-War Movement is Dead

Trump's Punitive Airstrikes against Syria. Noam Chomsky Favors "Regime Change"

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)  
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*"Neoliberals, Neocons, Corporate media and "Progressives" (collectively, the Deep State) praising Trump for the illegal airstrike against Syria, uniformly calling for more war, and vociferously attacking all those opposing war. Many figures who opposed Bush's war making have become totally "controlled puppets" who say and do what they are ordered to do—regardless of consistency with past views and actions." **Larry Chin**, April 8, 2017*

Segments of the anti-war movement which opposed the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq are tacitly supportive of Trump's punitive airstrikes directed against the "Assad regime" allegedly involved in "killing their own people", gassing them to death in a premeditated chemical weapons attack. According to Trump "Assad choked out the lives of helpless men women and children".

America's "Progressive Idol" **Noam Chomsky** in [an April 5 interview with "Democracy Now"](#) (aired two days before Trump's punitive airstrikes) favors "regime change", intimating that a negotiated "removal" of Bashar Al Assad could lead to a peaceful settlement.

According to Chomsky: **"The Assad regime is a moral disgrace. They're carrying out horrendous acts, the Russians with them."** Strong statement with no supporting evidence and documentation provided. The victims of imperialism are casually blamed for the crimes of imperialism:

**...You know, you can't tell them, "We're going to murder you. Please negotiate."** That's not going to work. But some system in which, in the course of negotiations ...[with the Russians], ... **he [Bashar al-Assad] would be removed, and some kind of settlement would be made.** The West would not accept it, ... At the time, they believed they could overthrow Assad, so they didn't want to do this, so the war went on. Could it have worked? You never know for sure. But it could have been pursued. Meanwhile, Qatar and Saudi Arabia are supporting jihadi groups, which are not all that different from ISIS. So you have a horror story on all sides. The Syrian people are being decimated.

(Noam Chomsky on Democracy Now, April 5, 2017, See the [video of the Democracy Now interview with Chomsky here](#))

**NOAM CHOMSKY:** Bunch of "ragheads"; it's all about the same. But, well, there are some things we know for sure. There was a serious chemical weapons attack. Nobody doubts that. It's plausible that it was the Syrian government, which does raise some questions. It's not so obvious why the Assad regime would have carried out a chemical warfare attack at a moment when it's pretty much winning the war, and the worst danger it faces is that a counterforce will enter to undermine its progress. So it does raise some questions. It also -- even though maybe you can think up some reason why the Assad regime, which is a murderous, brutal regime, might have done it, there's even another question as to why the Russians would have allowed it. Now, remember, this is a -- the air base is a joint Russian-Syrian base. Russia has plenty of clout in Syria. And for them, it's a total disaster. They have global concerns, not just local concerns in Syria. So there are some concerns.

Update, Scan of Chomsky Interview Democracy Now, April 26, 2017

### **Who was behind the Chemical Weapons Attack?**

No research, no investigative reports, no historical review have been conducted by Western governments and the mainstream media to support president Trump's allegations directed against the Syrian government. (See Trump's April 6 address below)

On Thursday evening US President Donald Trump spoke briefly after the US launched a missile strike on Syria. Here is a full transcript of his statement:

“

My fellow Americans, on Tuesday Syrian dictator Bashar al Assad launched a horrible chemical weapons attack on innocent civilians. Using a deadly nerve agent, Assad choked out the lives of helpless men, women and children.

It was a slow and brutal death for so many. Even beautiful babies were cruelly murdered in this very barbaric attack. No child of God should ever suffer such horror.

Tonight I ordered a targeted military strike on the airfield in Syria from where the chemical attack was launched. It is in this vital national security interest of the United States to prevent and deter the spread and use of deadly chemical weapons.

Financial Times screenshot. Trump nationwide statement on April 6, announcing the illegal airstrikes against Syria

The "humanitarian airstrikes" ordered by Trump constitute a criminal act which has resulted in civilian deaths including children. The US media applauds. The loss of Syrian lives is "collateral damage".

While there is no evidence that president Al-Assad ordered the chemical weapons attack, there is ample evidence -including a comprehensive UN report- that the opposition "rebels" (supported by US-NATO) **have since 2012 stockpiled and used chemical weapons**

**against Syrian civilians as well as SAA soldiers.**

There is also evidence that Washington and its allies had previously planned and supported “False Flag” chemical weapons attacks perpetrated by the “rebels” (including the 2012 East Ghouta attacks) with a view to incriminating the Damascus government.

See: [The East Ghouta Chemical Attacks \(2013\): US-Backed False Flag? Killing Syrian Children to Justify a “Humanitarian” Military Intervention](#) By Julie Lévesque and Prof Michel Chossudovsky, originally published in 2013.

## **The UN Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons (2013)**

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### **UN accuses Syrian rebels of chemical weapons use**

Syrian rebels have made use of the deadly nerve agent sarin in their war-torn country's conflict, UN human rights investigator Carla del Ponte has said.



According to [Carla del Ponte on behalf of the UN Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic:](#)

**“evidence from casualties and medical staff indicated that rebel forces in the civil war had used the deadly nerve agent sarin.**

‘Our investigators have been in neighbouring countries interviewing victims, doctors and field hospitals, and there are strong, concrete suspicions, but not yet incontrovertible proof, of the use of sarin gas,’ said Del Ponte in an interview with Swiss-Italian television.

**‘This was use on the part of the opposition, the rebels, not by the government authorities.’**

The comments by Ms Del Ponte, a member of the U.N. panel probing alleged war crimes in Syria, contradict claims by Britain and the U.S. that intelligence reports showed Syrian soldiers had used chemical weapons.

She said that the United Nations independent commission of inquiry on Syria has not yet seen evidence of government forces having used chemical weapons, which are banned under international law. (See Daily Mail Online, May 6, 2013))

“We still have to deepen our investigation, verify and confirm (the findings) through new witness testimony, but according to what we have established so

far, **it is at the moment opponents of the regime who are using sarin gas,**" (The Independent, May 6, 2013)

To consult the complete [UN Report which has been heavily redacted click here](#)

## **United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic**

### **Final report**

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The final version of the UN report was watered down: the role of opposition rebels acknowledged by the UN mission of investigators was omitted. The use of chemical weapons against both civilians and Syrian SAA soldiers is nonetheless documented and acknowledged.

On page 19 (para 111) of the UN report:

"Khan al Asal, 19 March 2013: 111. The United Nations Mission collected credible information that corroborates the allegations that chemical weapons were used in Khan al Asal on 19 March 2013 **against soldiers and civilians.**" **[the report is careful not to mention that the attacks were conducted by opposition rebels and the attacks were directed against government forces]**

Page 19 (para 111)

"Jobar, 24 August 2013: 113. The United Nations Mission collected evidence consistent with the probable use of chemical weapons in Jobar on 24 August on a relatively small scale **against soldiers...**" **[by opposition rebels]**

Page 19 (para 113)

See the official UN report, see also Carla Stea's review article entitled: [UN Mission Report Confirms that "Opposition" Rebels Used Chemical Weapons against Civilians and Government Forces](#), Global Research, December 31, 2013

### **The Training of Opposition Rebels in the Use of Chemical Weapons**

Moreover, acknowledged by mainstream media reports, Western special forces on contract to the Pentagon were involved in training the Al Qaeda affiliated rebels in the use of chemical weapons.





Sources: US helping underwrite Syrian rebel training on securing ...

CNN (blog) - Dec 9, 2012

By Elise Labott ... European allies are using defense contractors to train Syrian rebels on how to secure **chemical weapons** stockpiles in Syria, ...

For details see Michel Chossudovsky, [Pentagon Trained Syria's Al-Qaeda Rebels in the use of Chemical Weapons](#), Global Research, April 6, 2017.

See also Michel Chossudovsky, [The Syria Chemical Weapons Saga: The Staging of a US-NATO Sponsored Humanitarian Disaster](#), originally published in December 2012

### **Paying Lip Service to US imperialism?**

Whereas US-NATO inflicts death and destruction across the Middle East, not to mention its support of Al Qaeda affiliated terror groups, the victims of US aggression are casually blamed for “carrying out [these] horrendous acts” committed by the US and its allies.

Many “Progressives” view Syria as a “civil war” rather than a US-NATO supported terrorist insurgency. Noam Chomsky is largely supportive of “regime change” in Damascus in derogation of international law.

And anti-war activists concur, American “progressives” tow the line, follow suit in Chomsky’s footsteps.

In an earlier interview with Alternet, Chomsky avoids addressing US foreign policy, casually placing the blame on the “Assad regime”:

**EF: To what extent is the US administration responsible for Syria’s implosion?**

**NC It’s hard to say. The Assad regime is absolutely monstrous and responsible for a large majority of the atrocities.** IS [Islamic State] is another monstrosity. The al-Qaida affiliated al-Nusra Front is not much better than IS [Islamic state], while some of the other major groups are closely linked to it. ... Noam Chomsky, [AlterNet](#), August 25, 2016. emphasis added)

“...is the US administration responsible? It’s hard to say.”

In response to Emron Feroz (EF), Chomsky conveniently lumps the “Assad regime” together with the terrorists. Moreover, he fails to acknowledge that the Syrian government is fighting both Al Qaeda and the Islamic State and that these terror groups are supported and financed by the Western military alliance.

Both Al Qaeda and the Islamic State (ISIS) are creations of US intelligence.

War has become peace. Realities have been turned upside down.

Trump’s illegal punitive airstrikes against Syria are heralded as a humanitarian act against Bashar Al Assad who is “killing his own people”.

The illegal cruise missile airstrikes have set the stage: “Responsibility to Protect” (R2P).

More airstrikes including direct US military intervention are envisaged.

And “Progressives” applaud. The anti-war movement is dead.

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