<http://www.truthdig.com/report/page2/the_costs_of_violence_masters_of_mankind_part_2_20160512>

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/176137/>

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Part 1: What is an empire

Part 2: Chalmers Johnson’s argument – We’re in one! Here’s why. Copy and paste original basic outline and flesh it out with all of the relevant examples Johnson provides. If another section is needed, add to bottom. “But there’s more…”

Part 3: The Nature of Total Domination – Cancer Analogy (How many people know someone who has had cancer? What happens if you don’t kill the cancer? “It keeps spreading and taking over until you die.” a.k.a. Expansion at ALL costs. What happens when you’re beholden to no one? At odds with only excusable reason to go to war: self-defense.

>>Subpart: What are the costs? What are the casualties of total domination? With regards to: humanity, the environment, tax payers, privacy, poverty, education, solidarity…

Part 4: The Sorrows of Empire – The fate of all empires (aka where we’re headed) Revert back to cancer analogy. The best case scenario of a cancer is that it keeps growing. But what is the inevitable result of its uncontrolled growth? The death of the very thing that sustains it.

Part 5: Case studies: Vietnam, Libya, Iraq Invasion, Rise of ISIS

Part 6: Collective Action

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A. What is an Empire? Allow class to call out free flow of associations.

1. Total Control? Remake world in your own image.

“If you could summarize what an empire is in one word, what would it be?” Control/Power/Dominance. Talk about why total control/power/dominance is important: The need to create a world “order” that benefits you & suppressing all opposition/threats of opposition (actual, potential, imagined and invented/an excuse “preemptive war”)

2. 2 Forms: External/Coercive and Internal/Consenting

There are 2 ways I could gain and maintain control. Can anyone name them? “Either they let me, or I force them.”

1. External/Coercive

How do I deal with threats from outside? By suppressing all obvious threats and keeping a lookout for potential ones. This equates to FORCE + SURVEILLANCE.

i. Force - Suppressing obvious threats

1. Levels of suppression/domination:

Let’s take Rome to modern day. Let’s use all of the technology available to us in 2018. What would total domination look like?

-Domination on LAND

-Domination of the SEAS

-Domination of the SKIES

-Domination of SPACE

ii. Surveillance - Watching for new threats

-Domination of the PUBLIC SPHERE

-Domination of CYBER SPACE

Anything else to add?

b. Internal/Consenting – Making sure that threats don’t arise in the first place

1. IDEOLOGICAL domination…. Etc…. getting subjects to positively identify with my goals

narrative/history/identity/fate

\*save special forces for Johnson’s analysis

II. Chalmers Johnson’s argument: We are living in the most powerful empire in the history of planet Earth.

A. Chalmers Johnson’s argument: U.S.is an empire: dominates peoples and countries of the world with the most powerful military in history.

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/01/map-startling-size-us-special%20forces>

vi. technological/virtual dominance

b. client states

c. domestic control

i. surveillance

ii. elimination of constitutional rights

iii. force/violence

2. Goal

a. maintain empire

b. eliminate threats (real, possible, potential, hypothetical) to domination

c. remake world in its own image

d. serve complex arrangement of economic and political interest s

3. Ideology of Empire: Militarism

a. military is dominant institution in American society

i. military-industrial-intelligence complex

ii. military (including “militarists”) controls political system

iii. military values and norms are dominant norms in society

b. problems and solutions defined by military

<http://fair.org/home/five-top-papers-run-18-opinion-pieces-praising-syria-strikes-zero-are-critical/>

<http://fair.org/home/the-essential-pundit-take-trump-became-president-by-bombing-syria/>

c. no institutional constraints on use of military power

i. Congress/imperial presidency

ii. UN/International law

B. Structure: Military-Industrial-Intelligence Complex

1. Military

a. civilian command and administration

b. military command

c. armed forces

i. Active duty 1.3 million

ii. 1.1 million members of the National Guard/Reserves

iii. branches of military

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176048/tomgram%3A_nick_turse,_a_secret_war_in_135_countries/>

d. bases

i. 6,000 +

ii. 800+ in 160+ countries

e. military intelligence agencies

f. military academies, schools for strategic studies, ROTC

g. costs/comparisons

2. weapons contractors

a. contractors

b. weapons systems

i. annually: billions in contracts

ii. cost +

iii. current overruns

c. weapons dealers

i. sell to over 140 countries,

ii. Defense Export Loan

Guarantee Fund $15 billion

iii. DOD has 6500

d. Clinton :"promote peaceful conflict resolution, and arms control, human rights, and democratization”

3. Private Military Contractors (PMCs)

a. security

b. support

c. special forces

4. trade groups: Aerospace Industry Association

5. think tanks: Center for Strategic and International Studies

6. Congress

a. own stock in defense contractors

b. “reelection” and weapons contractors

c. Pork: + $8 billion

7. Universities

a. funding for “basic research”

b. Professors work for think tanks funded by Corporations

8. Intelligence Agencies

a. 17 intelligence agencies

b. surveillance

c. internal security

C. History: Rise of American Empire

1. American Exceptionalism

a. The City on the Hill

**“for we must Consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us” (John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Mitt Romney)**

b. Early Pre-Revolutionary Puritans

i. new Chosen People

ii. new “Promised Land”

c. unlimited natural resources

d. no class or caste system

e. infinite opportunity

f. benevolent and moral country ( a “good” country)

g. a unique and special people

2. America: Manifest Destiny

a. white race is ordained by God

b. conquer North America

c. justified “expansion”

i. Native Americans

ii. Mexican American War

d. Monroe Doctrine

e. Wilson: a “global destiny”

3. Overthrow

a. Hawaii

b. Spanish American War

i. Cuba/Platt Amendment

ii. Philippines

iii. Puerto Rico

c. Panama and the Canal

d. Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine

i. Nicaragua

ii. Honduras

e. Wilson: Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Mexico

4. WWII: Post –Colonialism and American Empire

a. Grand Strategy

b. “friendly dictators”

c. “unfriendly dictators” :Cuba and Castro, Congo and Lumumba, Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh

d. Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chile, Argentina, Brazil,

e. Vietnam and Grand Strategy

5. Cold War and Military Industrial Complex

a.“Containment”

b.MI Complex

i. permanent war economy

ii. military/mic in government

iii. military preparedness

c.56 cents of every dollar to defense

d. MAD: arms race

7. “exorcizing Vietnam”: Saddam Hussein and Iraq I, Panama, Grenada

8. 9-11 and the “war on terror”

**National Security Strategy 2002**

1. US is in a unique position

a. single dominate power .

b. largest economy

c. most powerful military

2. US model: free market capitalism and democracy

3. Needs to maintain position, enhance interests, and

eliminate threats

a. Middle East is extremely important: economically

and strategically

b. third world countries into line

c. counter threats to global hegemony

4. rejection of doctrines of deterrence and containment

a. MAD

b. 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

c. Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

d. 1967 Outer Space Treaty

5. The standard of imminent threat is redefined

to “possible or potential” threat

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2003/03/11/legal-prohibition-against-torture#What>

**Doctrine of Preemptive War**

1. Basic Principle: the US has the right to use force

against any nation

a. whose leaders have hostile intentions

b. have alleged connection with terrorists

c. have alleged potential connection with terrorists

d. have alleged plans and projects regarding wmd

e.anticipation of possible future dangers

2. Between 50 and 60 countries could be targets

**Nuclear Posture Review**

1. Use against non-nuclear country if conventional weapons fail to achieve military goals.

2. If specific targets withstand non nuclear attack

3."in the event of a surprising military development"

4.in retaliation for attack with wmd

5. will begin developing new types of nuclear weapons

6. Under Obama

a.“Nuclear Employment Strategy.” . . . the U.S. government considers itself free to initiate a nuclear attack on other nations.

b. counterforce strategy. Designed to employ U.S. nuclear weapons to destroy an enemy nation’s nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and associated installations. . .

c**.`**launch under attack.’

. d. New START

i.. **eliminate 1 to 517 of them.**

ii.[**7,700 nuclear weapons**](http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/nukestatus.html)**.**

[**http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/nukestatus.html**](http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/nukestatus.html)

e. 9 percent increase in federal funding for the Energy Department’s U.S. nuclear weapons activities, including upgrading nuclear warheads (like the B61 gravity bomb, slated for a $10 billion makeover) and modernizing nuclear weapons production facilities.

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOUtZOqgSG8**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOUtZOqgSG8)

**Global War on Terror and the American Empire**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4NRJoCNHIs>

1. JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command)

a. created in 1980s, 10x larger now

b. reports only to president

c. operates beyond any legal accountability

any thing, any where, any time they 1. earth want

d. operations are secret

e. operations are in many countries and in countries we

have not even claimed are tied to terrorism

f. sabotage, assassinate, “kill lists”

2. Drones

3. Battlefield Earth

4. War at Home:

a. Patriot Act

i. sneak and peek searches

ii. magic lantern

iii. FISA court/National Security Letters

iv. personal information

v. sec 215

b. National Security Agency

i. broke law and/or exceeded authority thousand x a year (according to federal judge phone records collection violates fourth amendment and is “truly Orwellian”)

ii. collecting and storing data on millions of Americans., including medical and financial records

iii. lied to or mislead FIS Court (Chief Judge “violated the Constitutions”

c. Supreme Court

i. Imperial Presidency and Sovereign Immunity

ii. Bush/Obama State Secrecy

d. National Defense Authorization Act 2012 Sec 1021(b)(2)

The law is an historic threat because it codifies indefinite military detention without charge or trial into law for the first time in American history. It could permit the president – and all future presidents – to order the military to imprison indefinitely civilians.

The law does not require even an allegation that a detained person caused any harm or threat of harm to the United States or to any U.S. interest. Mere allegation of membership in, or support of, an alleged terrorist group could be the basis for indefinite detention.

e. FISA Amendments Act 2008

f. Homeland Security

i. 1200 gov org/2000 private companies

ii. operating in 10,000 locations

iii. generate 50,000 intelligence reports a day

iv. millions of cameras/billions of footage “gazillion” bytes of info

v. $57 billion

vi. universities

g. Secret laws, secret interpretation, secret evidence

h.Supreme Court rulings

<http://www.truthdig.com/eartotheground/item/senate_cedes_more_power_to_the_nsa_by_passing_cisa_20151028>

II. Sorrows of Empire

A. perpetual war

1. Empire continually creates enemies: from Soviet Union to "terrorists" to

China and Russi

2. resources to military-industrial-intelligence complex

3. weapons of mass destruction

B. loss of democracy and constitutional rights

1. imperial presidency

a. Commander in Chief v ex parte Milligan

b. sovereign immunity

ic. Defense Authorization Act-"kill list'

2. Congress as rubber stamp for executive branch

a. Article I Sec 8

b. Madison “more wisdom”

. AUMF Oct 3-10 2002

i. open ended power to wage war

ii. “appropriate” use nuclear weapons

3. Constitutional Rights

a. Great Writ

b. USA Patriot Act

c. FISA Court

d. NSA

C. “lying world”

1. American Exceptionalism

2. corporate Media: Necessary Illusions

3. glorification of war, power and military

D. financial ruin

“Nemesis, the goddess of retribution and vengeance, the punisher of pride and hubris, waits impatiently for her meeting with us.”

<http://www.globalfirepower.com/country-military-strength-detail.asp?country_id=united-states-of-america>

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/2331>

<http://www.propublica.org/article/nsa-data-collection-faq>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-switch/wp/2013/12/31/heres-what-we-learned-about-the-nsas-spying-programs-in-2013/>