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**From:** Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 29, 2018 2:24 PM  
**To:** J  
**Subject:** Re:

Interesting perspective. Perhaps we can look at it s=rt of like this.

The way our minds work, it develops construc=s to try to accommodate our immediate experience -- like table and chairs =o accommodate what I'm experiencing now, manifestations of what we tak= to be an external world; and comparably, norms of social action and belie=s about society to accommodate what I experience in social life, manifesta=tions of what we take to be a prevailing culture.

If so, we're back to Bertie's picture but with a broader rang=, the mind constructing an external world that consists of tables, chairs,=cultural norms,... in an effort to provide some coherence to the flux of e=perience (itself a construct, so our efforts at scientific explanation ins=ruct us).

There's a preliminary discussion wi=h the mediator planned for Jan. 2, then a general mediation session later.=C2♦ Will keep you up-to-date of course.

Noam

On Sat, Dec 29, 20=8 at 12:06 PM J <jeevacation@g=ail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com>> wrote:

what i am suggesting is that what the t=rm culture means is the same as what consciousness means= culture can be describes as russell did for consciousness. ♦=A0 the physics and math envy habit of trying to measure =hings . we experience culture, it is stubborn, ♦=A0 transmitted, localized. contains memories. boundaries. ♦=A0 dictum. . it manifests itself in different ways=C2♦ but doesn't have a separate existence. i= is like consciousness a human construct. no more n= less. btw, is a mediation date and time set= yet? vincent papers were good except for the amou=t to settle.

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 8:56 AM Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>>> wrote:

From the point of view of a jihadi, Klan, evangelical Christian= my ultra-orthodox grandfather,.... it's the rest of the world that ^=s crazy. I think we can do better than just to take the fall-back p=sition that craziness is a value judgment, but not so easy.

=div>On consciousness, my suspicion is that we'll never do much better =han Russell's picture: what we understand with highest confidence is o=r own immediate conscious experience. The rest of our intellectual e=forts (science especially) are an attempt to make sense of that (and in th= course of doing so, instructs us that our experience is a construct of ou= internal modes of cognition acting on an external world that we (naively?= assume to exist. And it also tells us, I think, that consciousness =s a thin and superficial fringe of an internal mental life that is inacces=ible to introspection.

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 11:39 AM J &I<jeevacation@gm=il.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com>> wrote:

cultures swept by craziness, ♦=A0 isn't it the same for an individual. . . the brain sends signals based on faulty sensors or information. . to see if the brain is functioning. there are word tests. memory tests.=C2♦ etc. . why isn't consciousness the property of those things. like culture is to fads etc.

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 8:09 AM Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> <mailto:[REDACTED]> wrote:

Cultures unfortunately can be swept by craziness. =azism for example. Or the Great Awakening. We're in one of=those phases now. If there's a charge, it's true, in fact Tr=e. Any response is "mansplaining," another power play, rei=forcing the charge. You've seen I'm sure what happened to La=rence. Full and complete response, amounts to zero. Isn't =ven considered. It's like trying to discuss rationally with reli=ious fanatics.

Noam

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 10:41 AM J <jeevacation@gmail.com>= wrote:

As the stories get wilder and the writers make the girls younger. prostitution is a tabloid s dream , .=C2♦ I wondered if having something out in the cyber world th=t let some people point to rational arguments might allow some to de=end themselves from their wives . " how could you "=C2♦ etc.

♦=A0 I have been exploring the AI world with the cutting edge people.=C2♦ I remind them of your comments re machines thinking♦=A0 :)/ I thought that cult=re was the consciousness of a society. tribes were like s=lf. . media approx transmitters. . It =provided constraints and rules for some underlying interactions.

=/div>

It doesn't exist in a physical sense but either=does consciousness. which it appears to me as an evolutionary a=vantage and provides the brain with rules memories. ( cu=ture again ) . and constraints. . tribes when att=cked , act like a self . . compete like selves. etc. Th= world we call physical . follows rules that we have created, most u=knowingly. I assume language acts like an effective tr=nsmittier. . some language like adrenaline. some=like dopamine. . do some extent the hormones of the cul=ure. ?

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 7:20 AM Noa= Chomsky <[REDACTED]> <mailto:[REDACTED]> wrote:

It's a powerful and convincing statement, but my feeling is that it would not be wise to submit it for publication= Taking the stance of a reader who comes to the matter from afresh, =erhaps having heard some rumors but knowing nothing, the reaction I suspect= will be of the "where there's smoke there's fire" kind.=C2♦ Few are willing to think through the arguments and factual details o= to try to adjudicate conflicting claims. I've seen this happen =ver and over on other matters -- many years of having been accused of Holoc=aust denial, for

example.. Ugly and bitter as it is, I suspect the best course now is not to stir the pot by raising the issue publicly, openin= the door to charges and accusations that can no doubt be answered in the =ourt of logic and fairness -- but that's not the public domain, where =nnuendo and suspicion and accusation reign.

Anyway, for=what it's worth, that's the way it looks to me, in part on the bas= of experience.

The great work that you have bee= doing speaks for itself. My feeling is that you should keep at it, =nd simply develop a thick skin to fend off whatever ugliness breaks throug= now and then, diminishing over time.

Noam  
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On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 a= 8:33 AM J <=eevacation@gmail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

Im considering submitting this to the ope= of the wash post id like your thoughts

Swee=heart deal!" So goes the attack on the resolution of the more than a =ecade ago federal investigation involving our client Jeffrey Epstein.♦=A0 The attack is profoundly misplaced, supported neither by the law nor th= facts. Nor is it supported by the structure of our constitutional republi=. To the contrary, Jeffrey was subjected to an extremely aggressive federa= intrusion into what would typically be considered a quintessentially loca= criminal matter in south Florida. The offense invest=gated — at its core, sexual favors for hire ♦=94 has long been treated as a matter entrusted to laws of the several=States, not the federal government. The conduct — =or which Jeffrey took full responsibility — was a c=assic state offense and was treated exactly that way by able, honest prose=utors in Palm Beach County. Nevertheless, without a request♦=A0from the state prosecutors, the federal government intervened. For=their own opportunistic reasons, many are now criticizing the federal deci=ion-makers at the time, including now-Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta (then=United States Attorney in south Florida), for not going far enough.=u>

The critics are wrong on =he facts and the law. They also ignore a fact going to the heart of fundam=ntal fairness: In the decade since paying his debt to society, =effrey Epstein has led a life characterized by responsible citizenship, nu=erous acts of generosity and good deeds.

Here are the true key facts: Jeffrey Eps=ein, a successful self-made businessman with no prior criminal history wha=soever, engaged in illegal conduct that amounted to solicitation of p=ostitution. That conduct was wrong and a violation of Flor=da state law. Although no coercion, violence, alcohol, drugs or the =ike were involved, some of the women he paid were under the age of 18= Those facts were carefully assessed by experienced state sex c=ime prosecutors who aggressively enforce state criminal laws. No one=turned a blind eye to potential offenses to the public order. To the=contrary, the Palm Beach State Attorney's Office conducted an extensiv= fifteen-month investigation, led by the chief of the Sex Crimes Division.=C2♦ Mr. Epstein was then indicted by the state grand jury on a single fe=ony count of solicitation of prostitution.

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=span style="font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-size:1rem">During that investigation, the state prosecutors extensively gathered and analyzed=C2♦ the evidence, met face-to-face with many of the asserted victims, considered their credibility — or lack thereof — and considered the extent of exculpatory evidence, including sworn testimony=C2♦ from many that they lied about being eighteen years old to be allowed=into Mr. Epstein's home. After months of negotiations, the state prosecutors believed they had reached a reasoned resolution of the matter that vindicated the public interest — a resolution entirely consistent with that of cases involving other similarly-situated defendants.=C2♦ The system worked as it should have.

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Then, in came the feds. The United States Attorney's Office extensively and aggressively investigated whether=Mr. Epstein had engaged in a commercial human trafficking ring, targeted minors, or used the internet or traveled interstate in the process.♦=A0 But that's not what this was and that's not what happened. That is precisely why the federal authorities♦=80♦ ultimate decision to defer prosecution to the state was the right one.

=however, the federally-demanded resolution was not without conditions. The federal prosecutors insisted on various unorthodox requirements that Mr. Epstein's experienced defense team had never seen imposed on any=defendant anywhere. Under the federally-forced deal, Jeffrey was required to request that the state prosecutors demand the imposition of a thirty-month sentence that included both jail time and the strictest conditions of probation: lifetime sex-offender registration. Those draconian measures were far more than warranted by the state grand jury♦=80♦s indictment and would not have otherwise been required under the previously agreed-upon state disposition. As part of this highly unusual deal, the government required Jeffrey to pay for a highly experienced group of attorneys to bring claims against him on behalf of = government list of asserted victims. Jeffrey was required to waive the right to challenge those claims without being provided the asserted victim♦=80♦s identities by the government until after he was incarcerated. Importantly, the feds' decision to decline prosecution in deference to=the state in exchange for these extraordinary requirements =as reviewed and approved at the multiple levels of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jeffrey took full responsibility, complied with the feds' demands, served his sentence, and in the process was treated exactly the same (including his time served) as any other state=incarcerated individuals. His conduct while in custody was exemplary= and so characterized by the state custodial authorities. =/u>

=Jeffrey Epstein has paid his debt to society. The challenges to his Agreement with the Government must also be understood as challenges to the millions Mr. Epstein paid to the asserted victims and their lawyers pursuant to that agreement. Amongst the beneficiaries of the Epstein-Federal Government Agreement were the many victims who collectively received many millions as a result of the conditions imposed on Mr. Epstein that prevented him from meaningfully contesting civil liability — moneys that could be at issue if requests to invalidate the agreement were granted.

Our nation faces vitally important challenges, many involving the treatment of women and basic human dignity. Voices are rightly being raised speaking truth to power, especially about women in the workplace.♦=A0 But Jeffrey's offenses of yesteryear, which were entirely outside of the workplace, have long since been redressed by the criminal justice=system. He fully and faithfully has performed every promise and obligation required of him by state and federal authorities.♦=A0 In the spirit of the bedrock American belief in second chances and fundamental fairness, that chapter in Jeffrey's otherwise-productive and charitable life should be allowed to close once and for all. <span>

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