



CHRIS KNIGHT is currently senior research fellow in the Department of Anthropology at University College London, exploring what it means to be human by focusing on the evolutionary emergence of language and symbolic culture. He is the author of *Blood Relations: Menstruation and the Origins of Culture* (Yale, 1991) among many other publications. His website is www.scienceandrevolution.org.

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Back jacket photograph: Tatlin's drawing of his proposed tower, published in Nikolai Punin's *The Monument to the Third International*, 1920.

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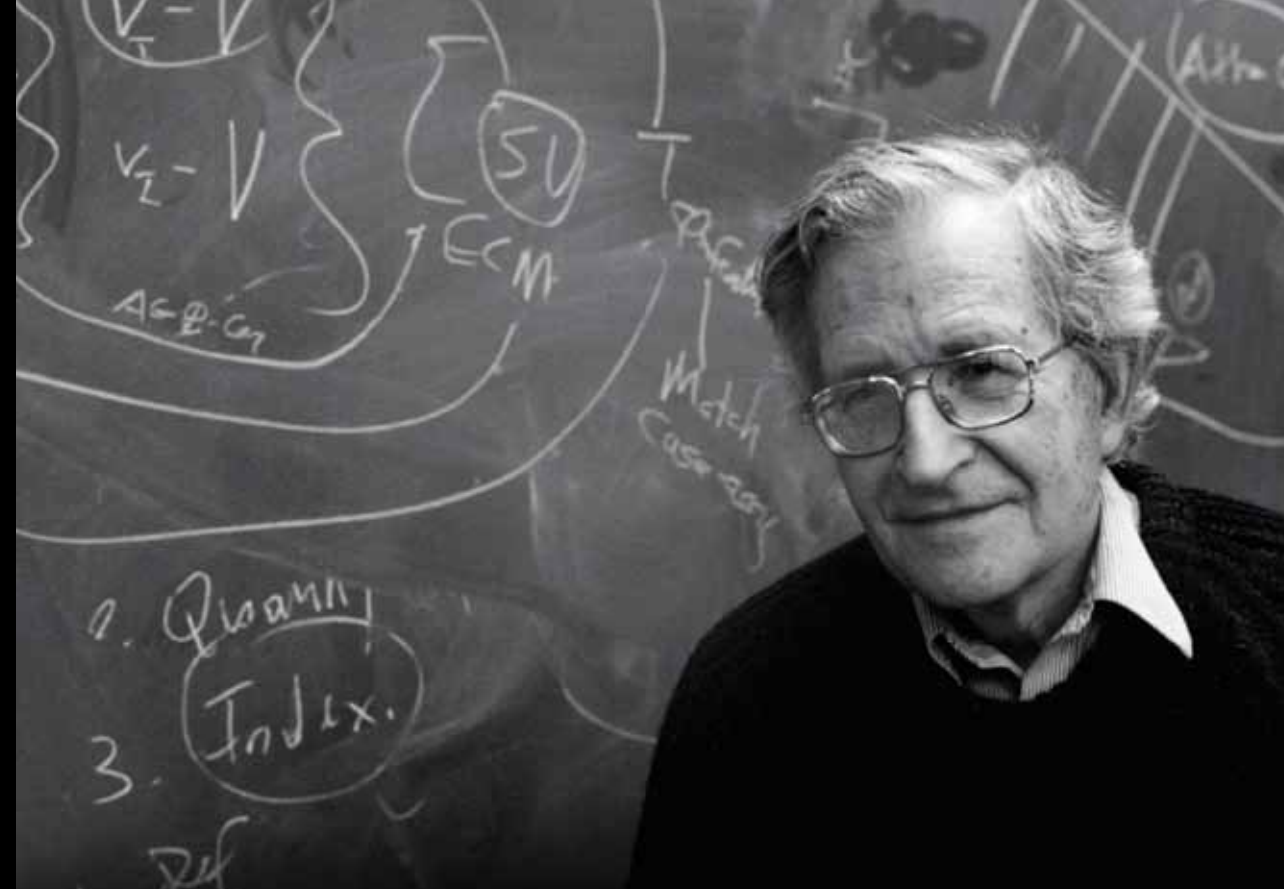


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Occupying a pivotal position in post-war thought, Noam Chomsky is both the founder of modern linguistics and the world's most prominent political dissident. Chris Knight adopts an anthropologist's perspective on the twin output of this intellectual giant, acclaimed as much for his denunciations of US foreign policy as for his theories about language and mind. Knight explores the social and institutional context of Chomsky's thinking, showing how the tension between military funding and his role as linchpin of the political left pressured him to establish a disconnect between science on the one hand and politics on the other, deepening a split between mind and body characteristic of Western philosophy since the Enlightenment. Provocative, fearless and engaging, this remarkable study explains the enigma of one of the greatest intellectuals of our time.