

article contains an interview on the Ebla controversy granted by Pettinato to *Flash*, a Syrian periodical, published in its February 1978 issue. In that interview he tries to emphasize the value of the Ebla finds apart from the connections with the Bible. 37. King, p. 243.

## Notice

The Committee for the Preservation of the Palestinian Heritage was recently formed to collect old Palestinian clothes and jewelry for the purpose of acquainting Americans with the culture of Palestine.

To allow maximum exposure, the

Committee proposes to make the collection available to different bodies such as museums or community organizations. Any party interested in sponsoring the exhibit is urged to contact the Committee.

The Committee is also engaged in a fund raising campaign to maintain this rare acquisition. An illustrated hard-cover book capturing much of this beautiful collection is for sale for \$30.00 and \$35.00 with sleeve. Inquiries should be addressed to: Committee for the Preservation of the Palestinian Heritage, P.O. Box 7668, McLean, VA 22106-7668.

powerful." (p.2)

In Chomsky's analysis, the official manipulation of the term "terrorism" is a part of an effective process of thought control in the United States, a process of "engineering democratic consent" to the actions of government. The first chapter of the book is devoted to an examination of the deception that the PLO and the Arabs generally reject the "peace process," when in fact the United States and Israel are the paramount rejectionists. A second chapter reviews the Middle Eastern terrorism in the American ideological system, focusing on the manner in which the Emperor's terrorist invasion of Lebanon in 1982 was rendered in the media as a legitimate counterterrorist operation.

The final section documents the construction of a U.S. demonology in which Col. Muammar Qaddafi is presented as a dreadful fomentor of terrorism on a global scale. In Chomsky's assessment Col. Qaddafi is a "retail terrorist," not a wholesaler like the United States and Israel. The Libyan leader initiated a series of killings of Libyan citizens both at home and abroad, which, Chomsky writes, are "the major acts of terrorism plausibly attributed to Libya"; through 1985 the toll was 14. This series of killings began in early 1980, "at the time when Jimmy Carter launched the terrorist war in El Salvador with José Napoleon Duarte volunteering to serve as a cover to ensure that arms would flow to the killers," whose victims numbered some 50,000.

Chomsky provides a withering scrutiny of the defective "evidence" proffered by the administration and major U.S. media to implicate Libya in various threats to neighboring states and terrorist incidents, culminating in the "disco bombing" in Berlin, which served as the Reagan Administration's pretext for the bombing of Libya in April 1986.

This is a book not only to read but also to pass along to others, to give to your local library, to ask bookstores to stock.

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# Book Views

## **Pirates and Emperors: International Terrorism in the Real World**

By Noam Chomsky  
Claremont Research and Publications,  
1986, 174 pp., \$8.95.

### Reviewed by Sheila Ryan

Noam Chomsky's new book is an intellectual surgical strike: in 174 short pages he hits at the nerve center of the polemic and propaganda with which the Reagan Administration has built widespread popular support for a disastrous foreign policy. The fact that publication of this book has not transformed the terms of public discourse in the United States on the issue of terrorism buttresses Chomsky's thesis that in our society lack of restraint on freedom of expression is coupled with effective restraint on freedom of thought.

The title of the book is taken from the anecdote with which it opens:

St. Augustine tells the story of a pirate captured by Alexander the Great, who asked him "how he dares molest the sea." "How dare you molest the whole world?" the pirate replied: "Because I do it with a little ship only, I am called a thief; you, doing it with a great navy, are called an Emperor."

The pirate's answer was "elegant and excellent," St. Augustine relates. It captures with some accuracy the current relations between the United States and various minor actors on the state of international terrorism . . . (p. 1)

Chomsky recalls for his readers that when the term "terrorism" came into use in the late 18th century, it was generally attached to the violence of the state visited upon its subjects: "Whereas the term was once applied to Emperors who molest their own subjects and the world, now it is restricted to thieves who molest the