

Short biographies:

Avram Noam Chomsky is an American linguist, philosopher, cognitive scientist, political activist, author, and lecturer. He is an Institute Professor and professor emeritus of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prof. Chomsky is well known in the academic and scientific community as one of the fathers of modern linguistics. He is also considered a prominent cultural figure.

Jean Bricmont is a Belgian theoretical physicist, philosopher of science and a professor at the Université catholique de Louvain. He works on renormalization group and nonlinear differential equations. He is mostly known to the non-academic audience for his political work on various central issues to our time, including humanitarian intervention.

Gareth John Evans, AO, QC, was born in Australia and served as Attorney-General and Foreign Minister of Australia. He was President of the International Crisis Group from 2000 to 2009. He co-chaired the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), which published its report, *The Responsibility to Protect*, in 2001. He was also a member of the UN Secretary General's Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, whose report *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility*, was published in December 2004. He is a member of the Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction, and of the International Task Force on Global Public Goods. He is an endorser of the Genocide Intervention Network and serves on the International Editorial Board of the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*. Evans is also member of the Board of Advisors of the Global Panel Foundation. In June 2008, he was appointed co-chair of the International Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Commission. In July 2008, Gareth Evans was selected as an inaugural fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o is a Kenyan and is the greatest writer to have come from East and Central Africa and one of the most prominent intellectuals from Africa. His work includes novels, plays, short stories, essays and scholarship, criticism and children's literature. He taught at Yale University, and has since 1992 also taught at New York University, with a dual professorship in Comparative Literature and Performance Studies. He is currently a Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature as well as the Director of the International Center for Writing and Translation at the University of California, Irvine. His novels show passionate commitment to the rights of ordinary people for which he has personally struggled and suffered.