The thesis of Professor Amy Chua’s book, *World on Fire*, is that “the global spread of markets and democracy is a principal, aggravating cause of group hatred and ethnic violence throughout the non-Western world.”

Her conclusion is based on the observation that in many countries free markets tend to concentrate wealth and resources with minority groups—she calls these groups “market dominant minorities”—while democracy puts political power into the hands of the majority. This creates a clash that has erupted many times in violence and discrimination.

Chua admits that this is an incendiary idea. “You can define markets and democracy in a way that they wouldn’t clash at all,” she says. “I’m talking about the kinds of markets that the U.S. actually has been encouraging and the kinds of democracy that the U.S. has been promoting—namely raw, laissez-faire capitalism, plus elections, elections, elections immediately.”

Chua based her book on three law review articles she published, and so it started out as a purely academic project, with thousands of footnotes and no personal references. But if you open the finished book, right on page one, you’ll read a moving account of how Chua’s aunt was murdered in the Philippines. Chua added stories drawn from her own experience and from dozens of interviews she has conducted with people from all over the world to make the book more accessible. “I think all of the personal material crept back in almost at the last stage,” says Chua.
But the ideas in the book also began in some ways with personal experiences. As a child when she visited the Philippines, Chua says, “it was always pretty clear to me...that the Chinese were very commercially dominant and that all of the Chinese I knew seemed to be quite wealthy.” Though she hadn’t invented the term “market dominant minority” yet, she was observing one. Working as a Wall Street lawyer, Chua noticed a similar phenomenon in Latin American countries.

When she moved to academia, starting at Duke University School of Law in 1994, she began to examine the similarities and differences between countries. She traveled to almost every region she wrote about. She also read voluminously on the topic—including authors whose works are a couple of centuries old, like James Madison and Adam Smith. “It’s absolutely astonishing how two hundred or a hundred years ago, people who wanted capitalism were terrified of universal suffrage. It’s a very, very old tension.”

But Chua also relied on the people at the Law School as she developed her arguments. “In many ways my greatest resource has been students who are from the countries themselves.”

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Here’s just a sampling of the many books recently written or edited by our alumni, faculty, staff, and students. We welcome your submissions. If possible, please send us two review copies of your book: one for the Lillian Goldman Law Library and one for the Alumni Reading Room.

Bruce Ackerman, Editor
Bush v. Gore: The Question of Legitimacy
Yale University Press, 2002

A broad range of preeminent legal scholars address the larger questions raised by this Supreme Court decision, including YLS faculty members Jack Balkin, Guido Calabresi ’58, Owen Fiss, and Jed Rubenfeld, along with alumni Steven Calabresi ’83, Robert Post ’77, Jeffrey Rosen ’91, and Mark Tushnet ’71. Edited by Bruce Ackerman ’67, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science.

Meir Dan-Cohen
Harmful Thoughts: Essays on Law, Self, and Morality
Princeton University Press, 2002

Legal philosopher Dan-Cohen ’76 LLM, ’81 JSD explores the nature of the self and its response to legal commands, and mounts a challenge to some prevailing tenets of legal theory and the neighboring moral, political, and economic thought.

Alan M. Dershowitz
Why Terrorism Works: Understanding the Threat, Responding to the Challenge
Yale University Press, 2002

Dershowitz ’62 argues that global terrorism is a phenomenon largely of our own making and that we must take specific steps now to reduce the frequency and severity of terrorist acts.

continued on next page >
Dick Manero
The Resurrection of Nunzio
1st Books Library, 2001
This first novel by Manero ’65 chronicles a Westport, Connecticut, lawyer’s arduous and twisted road to personal redemption.

Abe Ordover
Imagining Nature
Golux Publishing, 2001
Ordover ’61 has been photographing nature for more than two decades, and this book of images, captured on film and computer-enhanced, is his effort to convey the emotional truths he finds in nature and to share them with his viewers.

Clifford Rechtschaffen and Eileen Gauna
Environmental Justice: Law, Policy & Regulation
Carolina Academic Press, 2002
Rechtschaffen ’84 and Gauna provide an extensive compilation of interdisciplinary materials for studying environmental justice, including writings from the fields of environmental law, civil rights law, sociology, political science, and risk assessment.

WHAT’S NEW IN EDUCATION...

Michael Johnston
In the Deep Heart’s Core
Grove Press, 2002
Johnston ’03 chronicles the year he spent as an English teacher in the rural Mississippi Delta as part of the Teach for America program, confronting a racially divided world where his students struggled daily against crippling poverty, drug addiction, and gang violence to develop a passion for learning and dreams of a better world.

Hugh B. Price
Achievement Matters: Getting Your Child the Best Education Possible
Kensington Publishing Corp., 2002
Price ’66, president of the National Urban League, offers a sound and workable strategy to help children achieve academic success and become proficient readers, enthusiastic learners, and high achievers, while making America’s public schools accountable for their performance.
Looking Back at Law’s Century

Sarat ‘88 and his co-editors describe a century of tremendous legal change, from the Progressive Era’s optimism about law and social engineering to current concerns about a hyperlegalistic society, from philosophical idealism to the implementation of democracy, the rule of law, and the idea of human rights throughout the world.

Behind the Bench: The Guide to Judicial Clerkships

Strauss ’86 draws on the experiences of clerks and judges to explain all aspects of clerkships—what clerkships are, why and how to apply, how to give a strong interview, and why clerkships offer the experience and credentials that prospective employers seek.

Administrative Justice in the United States (Second Edition)

Strauss ‘64 provides an overview of American administrative law useful for foreign attorneys seeking an introduction to American public law, American students of administrative law, and others wanting to understand the workings of American government from a legal perspective.

Protecting Your Health & Safety: A Litigation Guide for Inmates

Toone ’95 wrote this book to help people in jails, detention centers, and prisons understand their basic constitutional and legal rights to freedom from excessive force, protection from assault by other inmates, adequate medical care, and healthy conditions of confinement, and explains how inmates can enforce their rights when they are violated.

Rethinking Humanitarian Intervention: A Fresh Legal Approach Based on Fundamental Ethical Principles in International Law and World Religions

Lepard ’89 offers a new method for analyzing humanitarian intervention that seeks to resolve conflicts among legal norms by identifying ethical principles embedded in the U.N. charter and international law and relating them to a pivotal principle of “unity in diversity.”

Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal, and Forgetting in Guatemala

Wilkinson ’00 traces the history of Guatemala’s brutal thirty-six-year internal war through the stories of a cross-section of the country’s citizens, from coffee workers to former guerrillas to small-town mayors to members of the ruling class, piecing together the largely unwritten history of the long civil war.

Antitrust Law: Policy and Practice (Third Edition)

Andersen ’58 LLM and C. Paul Rogers III

The Oxford Handbook of Jurisprudence and Philosophy of Law

Coleman (’76 MLS and Wesley Newcomb Hohfeld Professor of Jurisprudence), Shapiro ’90, and Himma

Perspectives on Property Law (Third Edition)

Ellickson (’66 and Walter E. Meyer Professor of Property and Urban Law), Carol M. Rose (Gordon Bradford Tweedy Professor of Law and Organization), and Ackerman (’67 and Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science)
Allan Topol
Dark Ambition
Penguin Putnam, 2003

Topol ’65 explores the highest levels—and darkest corruptions—of power in this, his second novel, when the Secretary of State is murdered and the Justice Department uncovers a lifetime of political intrigues, private indiscretions, and personal enemies.

K. Turković, M. Dika, M. Goreta, and Z. Durdević
Mental Health Act: Commentary with Appendices
Zagreb University Law School/Psychiatric Hospital Vrapče, 2001

Turković, Dika, Goreta, and Durdević offer a comprehensive and detailed commentary on Croatian mental health law, drawing on the expertise of mental health professionals and lawyers, which provides an excellent resource for practitioners, lawyers, policy makers, and people with mental disabilities.

Theodore M. Vestal
The Eisenhower Court and Civil Liberties
Praeger Publishers, 2002

Vestal ’58 law examines the work of the Eisenhower-era Supreme Court and its impact on the nation as reported by the analysts of that time, and pays retrospective homage to a Court that he says has not received proper recognition for its achievements.

Matthew Pearl
The Dante Club
Random House, 2003

1865 Boston, a small group of literary geniuses puts the finishing touches on America’s first translation of The Divine Comedy and prepares to unveil the remarkable visions of Dante to the New World. The powerful old guard of Harvard College wants to keep Dante out—believing that the infiltration of such foreign superstitions onto our bookshelves would prove as corrupting as the foreign immigrants invading Boston harbor. The members of the Dante Club—poets and Harvard professors Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, James Russell Lowell, and publisher J. T. Fields—endure the intimidation of their fellow Boston Brahmins for a sacred literary cause, an endeavor that has sustained Longfellow in the hellish aftermath of his wife’s tragic death by fire.

But the plans of the Dante Club come to a screeching halt when a series of murders erupts through Boston and Cambridge. Only the members of the Dante Club realize that the style and form of the killings are stolen directly from Dante’s Inferno and its singular account of Hell’s punishments. With the police baffled, lives endangered and Dante’s literary future at stake, the Dante Club must shed its sheltered literary existence and find a way to stop the killer.

This first novel from Matthew Pearl ’00 is accompanied by the release of a new edition of Longfellow’s translation of Dante’s Inferno, edited and with a preface by Pearl.