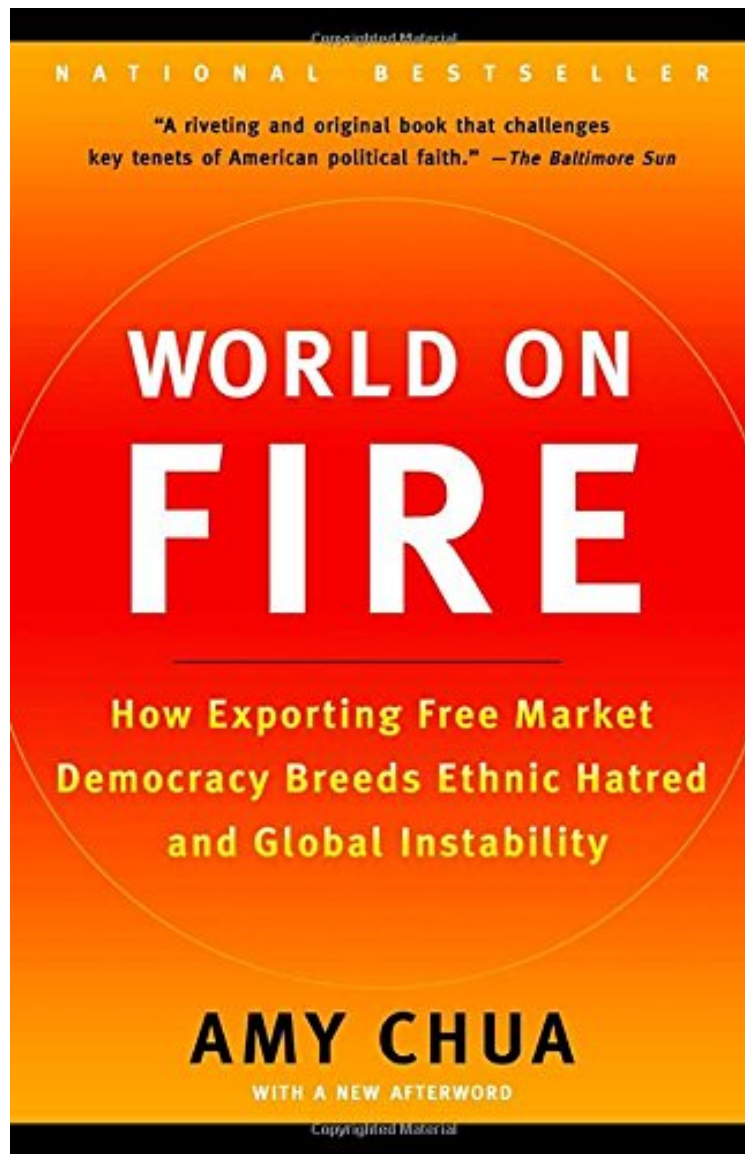


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# World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability

Amy Chua

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Amy Chua : World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Brand new concepts!By Charles T. RichardsonAmy Chua tackles tough topics typically avoided at cocktail parties such as...Why do American's love to mythologize the 'worldwide Jewish banking cartel'?Why are 6 out of the 7 richest new Russian oligarchs Jewish?Are Chinese students smarter than American students? Will the Chinese similarly out-compete Americans at jobs?Why do African-American families not stand a chance competing with white families on a 'fair and level playing field' in building generational wealth?Why did Hindii nationalists massacre between 1,000 and 2,000 Muslim civilians in Gujarat province in India in 2002? Why did the worlds' largest democracy then elevate the leader of Gujarat province to Prime Minister of India in 2014?Chua answers all of these questions with fast-moving, clear prose.She adds lurid storytelling, some of it personal, to flesh-out why America's greatest export - democracy - is causing us all to live in a world on fire.Tim2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. OriginalBy NancyhuaThis book broaches the almost taboo question of the suitability of spreading democracy and capitalism across the globe as though the combination were gospel. The problems inadvertently caused by dramatic switches to free market democracy grow more glaring as globalization increases, and this book is a good start at getting me to learn and think about how to address these issues. Aside from being original and creative, this book has the properties of being well organized, being easy to read, often trading depth for breadth, and raising many more questions than it answers.Contents:The first 50% of the book is a survey of various market dominant minorities within various countries, including the Chinese in Southeast Asia, the Tutsis amongst the Hutu, the whites in Latin America, the Jews in Russia, the whites in Africa, the Lebanese in west Africa. Chua sketches histories of how the minorities rose to disproportionate wealth and sometimes gives anecdotes for how members of various populations explain the phenomena to contrast the attitudes of the various ethnic groups.Then Chua goes on to describe the backlashes against free market democracy and their most obvious beneficiaries (the market dominant minorities), the backlash ranging from nationalization or government seizure of industries or properties previously owned by market dominant minorities to discriminatory laws to genocide. Democracy allows this government-sanctioned backlash to occur because the long suffering majority is eager to vote into office candidates who promise to "reclaim the country's wealth" (from the minority and back to, supposedly, the majority), running on slogans to the tune of "Kenya for Kenyans," "Serbia for Serbs," etc. This backlash is often disastrous economically (nationalized industries often do horribly in the hands of people who are suddenly supposed to run them but don't know how), politically (corruption), and humanely (by encouraging violence). Here she posits that nationalization of industries comes from ethnonationalism rather than socialism/communism.Although the USA is one of the main pushers of the free market democracy cocktail, Chua points out that the USA never had to endure such a prescription itself. Rather, everyone from the founding fathers onward had considered the problem of the relatively poor majority voting to "reclaim" the wealth of a minority and had put preventative measures in place, from poll taxes to literacy requirements. Furthermore Chua theorizes that, unlike Americans with the culture of the American dream, few people in developing countries believe free markets will allow them to go "from rags to riches." Thus the difference between poor Americans and poor non-Americans: unlike other poor people, poor Americans vote with the hope they will be rich one day and so tend to vote in ways that often seem counter to their own self interest. In addition the USA (along with China) is in the special state of having a market dominant majority instead of a minority, which is obviously much more stable in a democracy.Chua ends the book with several suggestions of how these issues can be addressed and includes the example of Thailand, where Chinese were forcibly assimilated into Thai culture. She also throws in the case study of the USA as a market dominant minority at a global level, thus incurring all the consequences that come with that status, including inspiring feelings of envy, hatred, and humiliation (non-Americans hate the USA but still want to be US citizens).The flammable combination of free market democracy and market dominant minorities begs the question of why market dominant minorities exist in the first place. It seems like there are as many explanations as there are occurrences and Chua gives many histories but I am left wondering more about this question. Her concluding suggestions for addressing the problems of inequality across ethnicities are worth reading, and in the end one wonders if the USA isn't pushing free market democracy too quickly and thoroughly, and to its own detriment, and whether a more suitable political and economic model could be found.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A classic enduresBy JamboBwanaAlthough critics of 'World On Fire' point out that there exist other reasons for inter-ethnic violence [other than rapid democratization in societies with market-dominant minorities], Professor Chua's thesis, and considerable research remains relevant and important. I am a late comer to the book, and wish I had read it years ago! She accurately predicted the results of recent rapid democratization in Egypt, which followed her logic, as an anti-Israeli demagogue (Morsi) won the popular vote. It is relevant even in ongoing conflicts such as that in Syria, where a hated minority (Alawite) holds on to power through the help of Russia and China. Her later books seem to have grown out of this one, and tried to answer the urgent voices calling for greater historical depth and breadth on this subject, which is in the headlines every day. It's also very well written....a page burner that can do more than enchant!

The reigning consensus holds that the combination of free markets and democracy would transform the third world and sweep away the ethnic hatred and religious zealotry associated with underdevelopment. In this revelatory

investigation of the true impact of globalization, Yale Law School professor Amy Chua explains why many developing countries are in fact consumed by ethnic violence after adopting free market democracy. Chua shows how in non-Western countries around the globe, free markets have concentrated starkly disproportionate wealth in the hands of a resented ethnic minority. These market-dominant minorities Chinese in Southeast Asia, Croats in the former Yugoslavia, whites in Latin America and South Africa, Indians in East Africa, Lebanese in West Africa, Jews in post-communist Russia become objects of violent hatred. At the same time, democracy empowers the impoverished majority, unleashing ethnic demagoguery, confiscation, and sometimes genocidal revenge. She also argues that the United States has become the world's most visible market-dominant minority, a fact that helps explain the rising tide of anti-Americanism around the world. Chua is a friend of globalization, but she urges us to find ways to spread its benefits and curb its most destructive aspects.

From Publishers Weekly A professor at Yale Law School, Chua eloquently fuses expert analysis with personal recollections to assert that globalization has created a volatile concoction of free markets and democracy that has incited economic devastation, ethnic hatred and genocidal violence throughout the developing world. Chua illustrates the disastrous consequences arising when an accumulation of wealth by "market dominant minorities" combines with an increase of political power by a disenfranchised majority. Chua refutes the "powerful assumption that markets and democracy go hand in hand" by citing specific examples of the turbulent conditions within countries such as Indonesia, Russia, Sierra Leone, Bolivia and in the Middle East. In Indonesia, Chua contends, market liberalization policies favoring wealthy Chinese elites instigated a vicious wave of anti-Chinese violence from the suppressed indigenous majority. Chua describes how "terrified Chinese shop owners huddled behind locked doors while screaming Muslim mobs smashed windows, looted shops and gang-raped over 150 women, almost all of them ethnic Chinese." Chua blames the West for promoting a version of capitalism and democracy that Westerners have never adopted themselves. Western capitalism wisely implemented redistributive mechanisms to offset potential ethnic hostilities, a practice that has not accompanied the political and economic transitions in the developing world. As a result, Chua explains, we will continue to witness violence and bloodshed within the developing nations struggling to adopt the free markets and democratic policies exported by the West. (On sale Dec. 24) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Globalization is not good for developing countries, insists Yale law professor Chua. It aggravates ethnic tensions by creating a small but abundantly wealthy new class and it's stimulating a new wave of anti-Americanism. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A riveting and original book that challenges key tenets of American political faith." The Baltimore Sun World on Fire deserves to be widely read. It is a welcome antidote to the recycled mantras of the market-cheering right and the tired rhetoric of the anti-globalization left. The American Prospect Fascinating and disturbing . . . with an authority born of rigorous research. BusinessWeek "Provocative, evocative, nuanced, and highly readable. . . . Amy Chua deserves our gratitude." The Washington Post "Superb. . . . Encourages us to confront the world as it is, and our actual place in it, with a humane and intellectually formidable imagination." The New York Observer This hard-hitting book should be read by everyone who still imagines that free markets can solve all the world's ills. Chua's work is provocative, creative, and important; it turns conventional wisdom on its head, and no one interested in globalization can afford to ignore it. Barbara Ehrenreich, author of Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America Provocative. . . . Shocking. . . . It should make Americans think twice about exporting their political culture wholesale without a thought of who dislikes whom. Seattle Times [World on Fire] makes for compelling reading and sounds a sobering warning that should be heeded by all supporters and critics of globalization. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel A profound book, written in plain English, and challenging the very foundations of some glib and dangerous assumptions behind American foreign policy. This book should be read in the highest circles of decision-making, as well as by all those who like to consider themselves thinking people. It should provoke some re-thinking and, for some, really thinking for the first time. Thomas Sowell, Hoover Institution, and author of Ethnic America, Race and Culture A brilliant, groundbreaking assault on the prevailing wisdom that the American political and economic model is a one-stop solution to the world's woes. Elle Grim and thoughtful. . . . A clear-headed incisive diagnosis of the many ethnic ills of the globalizing era. Mother Jones Clear and persuasive. . . . Chua is a careful, precise writer. Salon Chua's book is a lucid, powerfully argued, and important contribution to the debate over the forces and factors shaping the twenty-first century world. Strobe Talbott, President, The Brookings Institution, and author of The Age of Terror: America and the World After September 11 A cogent analysis...convincingly reason[ed]. The Boston Herald Chua offers a fundamentally new perspective on how to help sustain globalization by spreading its benefits while curbing its most destructive aspects. . . . Compelling. The Tampa Tribune Remarkably illuminating. . . . I cannot think of another work over the past couple of decades that reveals more about the disturbing persistence internationally of racial and ethnic conflicts. Randall Kennedy, author of Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word Drawing on examples from Burma to Bolivia, Chua paints a nuanced picture of ethnic and national fault lines. . . . [She] fleshes out the idea that globalization is not a magical elixir for developing nations. Newsweek A barrage of examples supports Chua's thesis, each described with careful consideration of the different circumstances of different nations. . . . [T]old with a dramatic flair. . . . The Weekly

Standard The greatest tribute to any book is the conviction upon closing it that the senseless finally makes sense. That's the feeling left by Amy Chuas *World on Fire*. The Washington Post