larger crisis in the U.S. that is undermining democracy and the freedom of individuals—a crisis that goes beyond the Bush administration or individual management problems. Instead, the author shows that the human disaster of Katrina is just one part of a broader undemocratic and authoritarian force that pervades U.S. society. Giroux argues that these larger forces are entrenched as part of the global political economy—creating some groups that are “disposable” while others benefit—and that we need to stop using the market as a determinant of democracy through global democratic struggles.


The authors note popular media portrayals of tort law at work, such as the famous case of the woman who sued McDonald’s after burning herself with hot coffee, and the notion of the “Bronx jury,” where economically disadvantaged ethnic minority citizens utilize the court system as a means for redistributing wealth. The authors question whether these examples are indicative of the way our tort system actually works, and go on to examine extensive data from various cases across the nation. They examine the effects of race, poverty, judicial elections, and attorney fees on the outcomes of tort cases.


By looking at two particular case studies of transnational social movement activity—a campaign to prevent child labor in Bangladesh and a campaign to prevent discrimination against pregnant workers in Mexico—Hertel looks at some of the important aspects of international human rights campaigns. She shows that activists in the global South do more than simply “ask for help” from SMOs in the Northern countries, but that, on the contrary, these Third World activists directly shape and challenge conceptions of what constitute “human rights,” by often directly subverting ISMO campaigns that are meant to “help” them and more subtly by presenting new norms of human rights into campaigns.


This collection of essays discusses changes in the last fifty years regarding marriage and family in America. In particular, it examines the wide current difference between the middle class, in which most children are reared in stable, two-parent families, and the heavily African-American lower class, in which a high percentage of children are reared by single mothers. The central thesis of the essays is that middle-class life and marriage are ordered by a life script which creates an expectation of college and first job, followed by marriage and childrearing, and “The Mission” of preparing their children for the future. In contrast, many poor people grow up without this script, with the expectation of early parenthood without marriage, and a more passive view of child rearing. This book discusses the serious implications of these class differences.


In **Unconquerable Nation,** terrorist expert Brian Jenkins speaks about the current state of the United States’s “war on terror.” Intended as a general overview, Jenkins provides the reader with a current (at least as current as can be in the ever-changing post-9/11 landscape) assessment on the realities of the U.S.’s campaign against the Jihadists. While stating what he sees as working, Jenkins doesn’t shy away from critiquing some of the current policies. Jenkins also argues that the U.S. will ultimately prevail but cannot risk trampling on American traditions and values in the process.