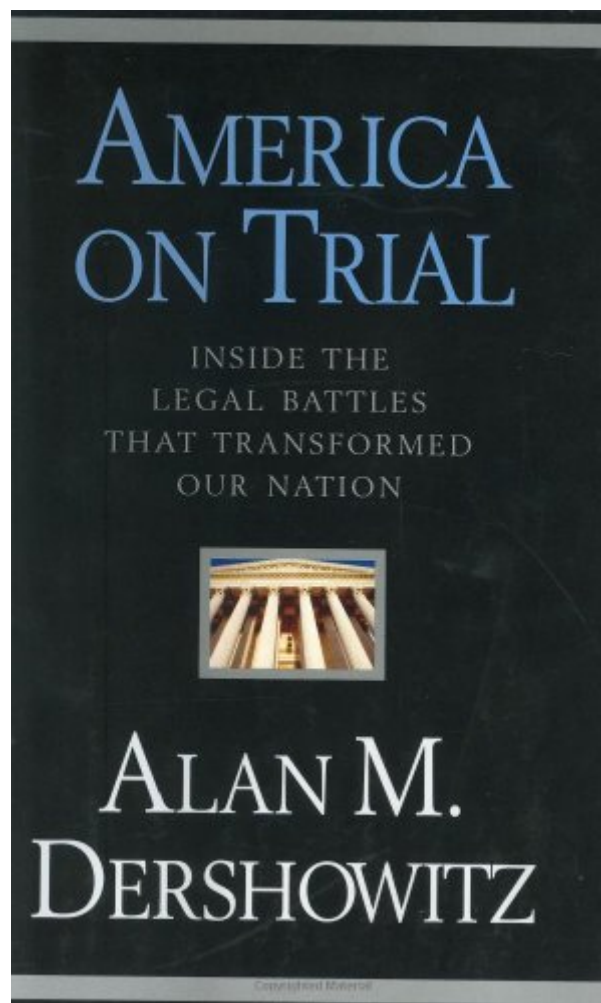


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BATTLES THAT TRANSFORMED OUR
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Investing the spare time by reviewing **America On Trial: Inside The Legal Battles That Transformed Our Nation By Alan M. Dershowitz** can supply such wonderful experience also you are only seating on your chair in the workplace or in your bed. It will not curse your time. This America On Trial: Inside The Legal Battles That Transformed Our Nation By Alan M. Dershowitz will certainly guide you to have even more precious time while taking remainder. It is extremely satisfying when at the noon, with a cup of coffee or tea as well as a book America On Trial: Inside The Legal Battles That Transformed Our Nation By Alan M. Dershowitz in your kitchen appliance or computer display. By enjoying the views around, right here you could start checking out.

From Publishers Weekly

Harvard professor and prolific author Dershowitz takes readers on a tour through some of the most celebrated-and intriguing-cases in the U.S. during the past 300 years. He begins with the most famous case in American colonial history-the Salem witch trial, which resulted in the deaths of 19 people-and continues through the current day, with the not yet decided case of the 9/11 detainees at Guantánamo Bay. Many of the 60 or so cases are famous (the Dred Scott decision, the Rosenberg trial), but others have been forgotten. Not surprisingly, the number of cases increase as he approaches recent history, and while there are some scandalous cases from the past, the majority of headline-grabbers, such as the O.J. Simpson trial and the Jean Harris-Scarsdale Diet doctor murder, are contemporary cases. Although the book has a cursory feel at times (each case runs only about six pages), Dershowitz displays a keen sense of history to go along with his knowledge of the law: he features cases that highlight changes in American history, and he misses little. He follows a simple format: listing the basic facts of the case, then offering his critique. Regarding the current Supreme Court, for example, he says he is "angry" that in the Bush-Gore decision, the court "took it upon itself to elect anyone at all." Those curious about the history of law will find this primer a good place to start. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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"As with all his books, this one is stimulating and enriching."

About the Author

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AMERICA ON TRIAL: INSIDE THE LEGAL BATTLES THAT TRANSFORMED OUR NATION BY ALAN M. DERSHOWITZ

PDF

The Boston Massacre. The Dred Scott decision. The Chicago Seven. O.J. Simpson. These are some of the trials that have both shaped and fascinated American society. Alan M. Dershowitz, who has been either a lawyer, consultant, or commentator on some of the most celebrated cases of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, highlights the trials he believes to be the most significant in our history, and discusses how they were central to the development of America's political and social structure.

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About the Author

Alan M. Dershowitz teaches at Harvard Law School and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

There's A Lot To Recommend This, But...

By Melissa McHugh

Here's what I liked:

- The introduction is incredibly well written and does exactly what an introduction is supposed to do. It made me excited to read the book. It talked about ancient, historical and global influences on the American legal system.
- Dershowitz has a great handle on American history and how it affected the legal cases at each step of history.
- I appreciate that it's not always about the big cases. For every Dred Scott, Lizzie Borden and OJ Simpson, there's John Webster, Stanford White and Abrams vs. United States.

What I didn't like

- Later introductions are less about legal history than they are about general US history. That's not useful to me. It became boring and began to drag.
- Discussions of the cases are too short, quotations are too long and too frequent. Dershowitz relies too much on what the principals says and less on his interpretation. For cases that I'm not familiar with, he doesn't bother to state the facts of the crime.

I love love love old legal cases and Dershowitz knows his stuff. He's been involved in a lot of the best current cases. He shines when discussing legal complexities of the early 20th century and I really enjoyed the earlier chapters. I just wish the case discussions had been more in-depth and there had been more of them! I feel like it was too brief, and he really only skimmed the surface. It could have been so much better.

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Justice, Injustice, Legal Shenanigans and Lying Lawyers

By Donald Mitchell

Professor Dershowitz claims that he has read the original trial transcripts of more criminal cases than anyone else. That's entirely possible because most legal scholars focus on appellate opinions that set new case law. What he found will shake your view of how well the American justice system has been working. But it's well worth having the feet pulled out from under your assumptions that all is well in the legal world. Only in that way can we hope to make needed improvements.

The book is formatted to select a few cases from each period in American history in order to capture the social and legal issues of the day. Each section is preceded by a brief essay summarizing the cases and then followed by mini-essays on some of the cases mentioned in the brief essay. The best of these materials correct popular misconceptions about famous trials, lawyers and judges.

The cases from the last three decades are probably a little too extensive, but because Mr. Dershowitz played a role in many of them, I think he can be forgiven for including so many.

If you are a person who believes that the U.S. Constitution cannot be changed in meaning except by an amendment, you will probably hate this book. Mr. Dershowitz believes that laws need to evolve to match the times and to correct historic wrongs . . . such as slaves being counted as a 3/5 person for purposes of the House of Representatives in the original version of the Constitution, even though the slaves had no right to vote.

If you are a big fan of Justice Scalia, you will definitely hate the book's end where Mr. Dershowitz unloads on the justice in no uncertain terms.

I was glad that I had read the book because I, too, had some misconceptions that I needed to lose. But the gain was modest for the effort. So if you are a lawyer, you might just want to skim the cases that interest you rather than read the whole book.

For someone who isn't a lawyer, I think the book will be very revealing in its exploration of how justice and injustice have been perpetrated in the courts over the last several hundred years in the United States. I think you'll come away pleased that we are trying to make justice better. You will also be disappointed to see that the child molestation cases were sometimes run in ways not different enough from the Salem witch trials. Progress can be slow.

Most books about the grand cases of the law elevate the law and the legal profession with a lot of romanticism. Professor Dershowitz uses bug spray instead to make the cockroaches scatter who are undermining the process. When you agree with his views, you will love the book. When you disagree with his views, you will find the book to be very annoying.

I graded the book down for enormous redundancy between the brief essays and the mini-essays. That problem was less towards the end, but it was a definite annoyance in the beginning.

May we all enjoy the justice we deserve!

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

[...]

By Mr. Marc Wickert

America On Trial - Inside The Legal Battles That Transformed Our Nation

by Alan M. Dershowitz (Warner Books).

© Marc Wickert October 1, 2008

[...]

This book is literary shock treatment. Although written by the world's most famous criminal lawyer, the book is easy to read, but hard to put down.

Professor Dershowitz has defended such clients as Patty Hearst, Jimmy Bakker, and former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson. Dershowitz was also a member of O.J. Simpson's 'Dream Team' defense group.

In his book, he covers cases from the Salem Witchcraft Trials of Colonial America to the Trial of the Lincoln Assassins; from the Shoeless Joe Jackson Case to the Trial of Jack Ruby; and the Trial of the Chicago Seven to the Cases of the Terrorist Detainees - in Guantanamo and unknown places around the world.

If you ever wondered whether Mike Tyson was really guilty of rape, or thought it strange a beauty pageant contestant was innocently visiting the boxer in his hotel room at 2am, then wait until you've read Professor Dershowitz's chapter "The Trial of Mike Tyson".

"America On Trial - Inside The Legal Battles That Transformed Our Nation" is a knockout book from cover to cover. This book should be in every library on the planet.

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