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On Chinese Mothering and Amy Chua

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Yale Law professor Amy Chua's article on "[Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior](#)" is still in the top five most-emailed stories at the *Wall Street Journal's* website, four days after its publication last Saturday. Chua has attracted a considerable amount of attention with her article (and newly released book, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*), which examines Chinese parenting techniques and compares them to Western approaches to raising children:

I've noticed that Western parents are extremely anxious about their children's self-esteem. They worry about how their children will feel if they fail at something, and they constantly try to reassure their children about how good they are notwithstanding a mediocre performance on a test or at a recital. In other words, Western parents are concerned about their children's psyches. Chinese parents aren't. They assume strength, not fragility, and as a result they behave very differently.

For responses to Chua, see Evan Osnos, "[Chinese Daughters and Amy Chua](#)"; "[Chinese or Western? Who Wins the Mommy War?](#)" by Adrienne Mong at the NBC News "Behind the Wall" China site; and "[What Kind of Chinese Mother is Amy Chua?](#)" by Nina Shen Rastogi at Slate. At the *New York Times*, Lisa Belkin places Chua's book within a larger context of new writings on trends in parenting, and Maureen Corrigan at NPR reviews the book in her piece, "[Tiger Mothers: Raising Children the Chinese Way](#)":

In her new memoir, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, Chua recounts her adventures in Chinese parenting, and — nuts though she may be — she's also mesmerizing. Chua's voice is that of a jovial, erudite serial killer — think Hannibal Lecter — who's explaining how he's going to fillet his next victim, as though it's the most self-evidently normal behavior.

Finally, Taiwan's [Next Media Animation](#) has produced this video on the debate, "Western Mom vs. Chinese Mom: Who Wins?"

Tag: Amy Chua