



THIS BOOK OFFERS A TRANSNATIONAL AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATION OF VIOLENCE, RANGING FROM BULLYING AND HATE CRIMES TO REVOLUTIONS, GENOCIDE, AND TERRORISM. IT OFFERS EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THESE SPECIFIC TYPES OF VIOLENCE AS WELL AS THEORETICAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE UNDERLYING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES AMONG THESE FORMS OF VIOLENCE.

**RELIGION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY** LEE MARSDEN 2019-01-22 RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IS ON THE RISE GLOBALLY. HARDLY A DAY PASSES WITHOUT NEWS OF A VICIOUS ATTACK BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE NAME OF RELIGION. RELIGION CAN, OF COURSE, BRING SECURITY TO MANY BUT ITS PERVERSION LEADS TO INSECURITY FOR ALL. WHY IS THIS? HOW AND WHY DO SO MANY CLAIM TO ACT ON GOD'S BEHALF TO INFLICT DELIBERATE HUMAN SUFFERING? IN **RELIGION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY** LEE MARSDEN EXPLORES THE RETURN OF RELIGION AS A MAJOR CAUSE OF INSECURITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD. HE GUIDES READERS THROUGH THE DIFFERENT THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES SURROUNDING THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND SECURITY, ARGUING THAT THE SECULAR BIAS THAT MARGINALIZED THE ROLE PLAYED BY RELIGION IN RECENT TIMES MUST CHANGE TO REFLECT THE REALITIES OF THE EMERGING POST-SECULAR INTERNATIONAL ORDER. PACKED WITH EXAMPLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, THE BOOK OFFERS A THOUGHTFUL AND NUANCED EXPLORATION OF RELIGION AND SECURITY THROUGH KEY THEMES SUCH AS RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED AND INSPIRED TERRORISM AND WARFARE, THE HUMAN SECURITY OF WOMEN AND GAY PEOPLE IN RELIGIOUSLY DOMINATED COMMUNITIES, AND THE CAPACITY FOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AND LEADERS TO HEAL CONFLICT THROUGH PEACEBUILDING. FOR THOSE WHO WOULD RATHER DENY A ROLE FOR RELIGION WHEN CONSIDERING SECURITY, THE GENIE IS TRULY OUT OF THE BOTTLE. THIS BOOK SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND THIS PHENOMENON AND HOW TO COME TO TERMS WITH IT.

**JOSHUA 1-12** THOMAS B. DOZEMAN 2015-01-01 AN ACKNOWLEDGED EXPERT ON THE HEBREW BIBLE, THOMAS DOZEMAN OFFERS A FRESH TRANSLATION OF THE HEBREW AND GREEK TEXTS OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA AND EXPLORES THE NATURE, FUNCTION, AND CAUSES OF THE RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE DEPICTED THEREIN. BY BLENDING THE DISTINCT TEACHINGS OF DEUTERONOMY AND THE PRIESTLY LITERATURE, DOZEMAN PROVIDES A UNIQUE INTERPRETATION OF HOLY WAR AS A FORM OF SACRED GENOCIDE, ARGUING THAT, SINCE PEACE IN THE PROMISED LAND REQUIRED THE ELIMINATION OF THE POPULATIONS OF ALL EXISTENT ROYAL CITIES, A GENERAL PURGING OF THE LAND ACCOMPANIED THE PROGRESS OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT. THIS ESSENTIAL WORK OF RELIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP DEMONSTRATES HOW THE THEME OF TOTAL GENOCIDE IS REINTERPRETED AS PARTIAL CONQUEST WHEN REDACTORS PLACE JOSHUA, AN INDEPENDENT BOOK, BETWEEN DEUTERONOMY AND JUDGES. THE AUTHOR TRACES THE EVOLUTION OF THIS REINTERPRETATION OF THE CENTRAL THEMES OF RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE WHILE PROVIDING A COMPARISON OF THE TWO TEXTUAL VERSIONS OF JOSHUA AND AN INSIGHTFUL ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK'S RECEPTION HISTORY.

**PRINCETON READINGS IN RELIGION AND VIOLENCE** MARK JUERGENSMAYER 2011-10-10 AN ANTHOLOGY THAT EXAMINES THE HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND VIOLENCE THIS GROUNDBREAKING ANTHOLOGY PROVIDES THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW FOR UNDERSTANDING THE FASCINATING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND VIOLENCE—HISTORICALLY, CULTURALLY, AND IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD. BRINGING TOGETHER WRITINGS FROM SCHOLARLY AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, IT IS THE FIRST VOLUME TO UNITE PRIMARY SOURCES—JUSTIFICATIONS FOR VIOLENCE FROM RELIGIOUS TEXTS, THEOLOGIANS, AND ACTIVISTS—WITH INVALUABLE ESSAYS BY AUTHORITATIVE SCHOLARS. THE FIRST HALF OF THE COLLECTION INCLUDES ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIALS JUSTIFYING VIOLENCE FROM VARIOUS RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES: HINDU, CHINESE, CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM, JEWISH, AND BUDDHIST. SHOWING THAT RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IS FOUND IN EVERY TRADITION, THESE SOURCES INCLUDE ANCIENT TEXTS AND SCRIPTURES ALONG WITH THOUGHTFUL ESSAYS FROM THEOLOGIANS WRESTLING WITH SUCH ISSUES AS MILITARY PROTECTION AND PACIFISM. THE COLLECTION ALSO INCLUDES THE WRITINGS OF MODERN-DAY ACTIVISTS INVOLVED IN SUICIDE BOMBINGS, ATTACKS ON ABORTION CLINICS, AND NERVE GAS ASSAULTS. THE BOOK'S SECOND HALF FEATURES WELL-KNOWN THINKERS REFLECTING ON WHY RELIGION AND VIOLENCE ARE SO INTIMATELY RELATED AND INCLUDES EXCERPTS FROM EARLY SOCIAL THEORISTS SUCH AS DURKHEIM, MARX, AND FREUD, AS WELL AS CONTEMPORARY THINKERS WHO VIEW THE ISSUE OF RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE FROM LITERARY, ANTHROPOLOGICAL, POSTCOLONIAL, AND FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES. THE EDITORS' BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS TO EACH ESSAY PROVIDE IMPORTANT HISTORICAL AND CONCEPTUAL CONTEXTS AND RELATE THE READINGS TO ONE ANOTHER. THE DIVERSITY OF SELECTIONS AND THEIR ACCESSIBLE LENGTH MAKE THIS VOLUME IDEAL FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND GENERAL READERS.

**A CULTURAL HISTORY OF PEACE IN THE MODERN AGE** RONALD EDSFORTH 2022-02-24 A CULTURAL HISTORY OF PEACE PRESENTS AN AUTHORITATIVE SURVEY FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT. THE SET OF SIX VOLUMES COVERS OVER 2500 YEARS OF HISTORY, CHARTING THE EVOLVING NATURE AND ROLE OF PEACE THROUGHOUT HISTORY. THIS VOLUME, **A CULTURAL HISTORY OF PEACE IN THE MODERN AGE**, EXPLORES PEACE IN THE PERIOD FROM 1920 TO THE PRESENT. AS WITH ALL THE VOLUMES IN THE ILLUSTRATED CULTURAL HISTORY OF PEACE SET, THIS VOLUME PRESENTS ESSAYS ON THE MEANING OF PEACE, PEACE MOVEMENTS, MAINTAINING PEACE, PEACE IN RELATION TO GENDER, RELIGION AND WAR AND REPRESENTATIONS OF PEACE. **A CULTURAL HISTORY OF PEACE IN THE MODERN AGE** IS THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY AVAILABLE ON PEACE IN THE TWENTIETH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY.

**PRINCETON READINGS IN RELIGION AND VIOLENCE** MARK JUERGENSMAYER 2011-10-30 AN ANTHOLOGY THAT PROVIDES THE COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW FOR UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND VIOLENCE—HISTORICALLY, CULTURALLY, AND IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD. IT INCLUDES ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIALS JUSTIFYING VIOLENCE FROM VARIOUS RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES: HINDU, CHINESE, CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM, JEWISH, AND BUDDHIST.

**CHRISTIANITYNEXT WINTER 2018: NEGOTIATING DIFFERENCE** YOUNG LEE HERTIG 2018

**RELIGION, VIOLENCE AND CITIES** LIAM O'DOWD 2016-04-14 IN EXPLORING THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN RELIGION, VIOLENCE AND CITIES, THE BOOK PROBES THE EXTENT TO WHICH RELIGION MODERATES OR EXACERBATES VIOLENCE IN AN INCREASINGLY URBANISED WORLD. ORIGINATING IN A FIVE YEAR RESEARCH PROJECT, **CONFLICT IN CITIES AND THE CONTESTED STATE**, CONCERNED WITH BELFAST, JERUSALEM AND OTHER ETHNO-NATIONALLY DIVIDED CITIES, THIS VOLUME WIDENS THE GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS TO INCLUDE DIVERSE CITIES FROM THE BALKANS, THE MIDDLE EAST, NIGERIA AND JAPAN. IN ADDRESSING THE

UNDERSTUDIED TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN RELIGION, VIOLENCE AND CITIES, CONTRIBUTORS STRESS THE MULTIPLE FORMS TAKEN BY RELIGION AND VIOLENCE WHILE CHALLENGING THE COMPARTMENTALISATION OF TWO HIGHLY TOPICAL DEBATES—LINKS BETWEEN RELIGION AND VIOLENCE ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE PROLIFERATION OF VIOLENT URBAN CONFLICTS ON THE OTHER HAND. THEIR RESEARCH DEMONSTRATES WHY CITIES HAVE BECOME SO IMPORTANT IN CONFLICTS DRIVEN BY STATE-BUILDING, FUNDAMENTALISM, RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM, AND ETHNO-RELIGIOUS DIVISION AND ILLUMINATES THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH URBAN ENVIRONMENTS CAN FUEL VIOLENT CONFLICTS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANAGING OR TRANSFORMING THEM. THIS BOOK WAS PUBLISHED AS A SPECIAL ISSUE OF **SPACE AND POLITY**.

**STRUGGLES FOR SHALOM** LAURA BRENNEMAN 2014-04-23 **STRUGGLES FOR SHALOM** IS A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS BY BIBLICAL SCHOLARS ABOUT PEACE, JUSTICE, AND VIOLENCE IN ANCIENT JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN TEXTS, WRITTEN TO HONOR THE LIFE WORK OF MENNONITE SCHOLARS PERRY B. YODER AND WILLARD M. SWARTLEY. IN THIS VOLUME, TWENTY-THREE AUTHORS—COLLEAGUES, FORMER STUDENTS, FRIENDS, AND OTHERS INFLUENCED BY YODER'S AND SWARTLEY'S SCHOLARSHIP—ADD TO THE HONOREES' WORK IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SHARED FOCUS ON BIBLICAL TEXTS' LESSONS OF PEACE. SPECIFIC TEXTS AND TOPICS INCLUDE ECCL 3:1-9 AND TIME FOR WAR, EZEK 14:12-23 AND GOD'S RETRIBUTION, LUKE 22:31-61 AND PETER'S SWORD, THE TEMPLE CLEANSING EPISODES IN JOHN 2 AND MARK 11, SECTARIANISM AND VIOLENCE IN MANUSCRIPTS FROM THE DEAD SEA, VIOLENCE IN CREATION IN THE HEBREW BIBLE, CHRONICLES AS UTOPIAN LITERATURE, PEACE AND VIOLENCE IN PAUL'S WRITINGS, AND GLOBALIZATION IN BIBLICAL STUDIES. THIS COLLECTION IS DIVERSE AND AMBITIOUS. FOR CHURCH AND ACADEMY, AND FOR ANYONE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT SCRIPTURE HAS TO SAY ABOUT PEACE AND VIOLENCE, THIS BOOK DELIVERS FOCUSED STUDY OF PEACE AND VIOLENCE ACROSS THE TESTAMENTS. CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE: WILMA ANN BAILEY JO-ANN A. BRANT LAURA L. BRENNEMAN JACOB W. ELIAS RETA HALTEMAN FINGER MICHAEL J. GORMAN NANCY R. HEISEY PAUL KEIM CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL SAFWAT MARZOUK DOUGLAS B. MILLER BEN C. OLLENBURGER DOROTHY M. PETERS DAVID RENSBERGER ANDREA DALTON SANER BRAD D. SCHANTZ MARY H. SCHERTZ STEVEN SCHWEITZER WILLARD M. SWARTLEY JACKIE WYSE-RHODES JOSHUA YODER PERRY B. YODER THOMAS R. YODER NEUFELD PAUL YOKOTA GORDON ZERBE OTHER VOLUMES IN THE SERIES INCLUDE: **A PEACEABLE HOPE** (VOL. 11, BAKER ACADEMIC, 2013) **ATONEMENT, JUSTICE, AND PEACE** (VOL. 10, EERDMANS, 2011) **COVENANT OF PEACE** (VOL. 9, EERDMANS, 2006) **THE SOUND OF SHEER SILENCE AND THE KILLING STATE** (VOL. 8, CASCADIA PUBLISHING HOUSE AND HERALD PRESS, 2004) **BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS** (VOL. 7, INSTITUTE OF MENNONITE STUDIES AND HERALD PRESS, 2003) **CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOR** (VOL. 6, PANDORA PRESS US, 2002) **BEYOND RETRIBUTION** (VOL. 5, EERDMANS, 2001) **VIOLENCE RENOUNCED** (VOL. 4, HERALD PRESS AND PANDORA PRESS US, 2000) **THE LOVE OF ENEMY AND NONRETALIATION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT** (VOL. 3, WESTMINSTER JOHN KNOX, 1992) **THE MEANING OF PEACE** (VOL. 2, WESTMINSTER JOHN KNOX, 1992) **THE GOSPEL OF PEACE** (VOL. 1, WESTMINSTER JOHN KNOX, 1992)

**WRESTLING WITH THE VIOLENCE OF GOD** M. DANIEL CARROLL R. 2015-10-09 THE PREVALENCE OF EVIL AND VIOLENCE IN THE WORLD IS A GROWING FOCUS OF SCHOLARLY ATTENTION, ESPECIALLY VIOLENCE DONE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION AND VIOLENCE FOUND WITHIN THE PAGES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. MANY ATHEISTS CONSIDER THIS REASON ENOUGH TO REJECT THE NOTION OF A SUPREME DEITY. SOME CHRISTIANS ATTEMPT TO EXONERATE GOD BY REINTERPRETING PROBLEMATIC PASSAGES OR BY PRIORITIZING PORTRAYALS OF GOD'S NONVIOLENCE. OTHER CHRISTIANS HAVE BEGUN TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT BY QUESTIONING THE NATURE OF THE TEXT ITSELF, THOUGH NOT REJECTING BELIEF IN A GOOD GOD. **WRESTLING WITH THE VIOLENCE OF GOD: SOUNDINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT** IS A RESPONSE TO THESE CHALLENGING ISSUES. THE CHAPTERS IN THIS VOLUME PRESENT EMPATHETIC, HOLISTIC, AND METHODOLOGICALLY RESPONSIBLE READINGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AS CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE. CONTRIBUTORS FROM DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES, RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS COME TOGETHER TO ADDRESS REPRESENTATIVE BIBLICAL MATERIAL THAT DEPICTS VIOLENCE. CHAPTERS ADDRESS EXPLICIT PORTRAYALS OF DIVINE VIOLENCE, HUMAN RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE OF GOD AND VIOLENCE IN THE WORLD, ALTERNATIVE UNDERSTANDINGS OF SUPPOSEDLY VIOLENT TEXTS, AND A HOPEFUL FUTURE IN WHICH VIOLENCE IS NO MORE. RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO OFFER A CONCLUSIVE ANSWER TO THE ISSUE, THIS VOLUME CONSTRUCTIVELY CONTRIBUTES TO THE ONGOING DISCUSSION.

**COMPLEX IDENTITIES IN A SHIFTING WORLD** PAMELA COUTURE 2015-01-09 CLEAR AND WELL-DEFINED IDENTITIES ARE HARD TO SUSTAIN IN A RAPIDLY SHIFTING WORLD. PEOPLES, GOODS, AND CULTURES ARE ON THE MOVE. THE INTERNET AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES INCREASE THE AMOUNT, THE SPEED, AND THE INTENSITY OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES. INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND NATIONS DEVELOP COMPLEX IDENTITIES OUT OF MANY TRADITIONS, DIFFERENT IDEALS, VARIOUS WAYS OF LIFE, AND MANY MODELS OF ORGANIZATION. RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS BOTH COLLIDE AND INTERACT, WITH SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS CROSSING RELIGIOUS BOUNDARIES. IN THIS BOOK, MORE THAN 20 CONTRIBUTORS FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES OFFER AN ARRAY OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES TO HELP UNDERSTAND THESE COMPLEX IDENTITIES AND NEGOTIATE THIS SHIFTING WORLD. (SERIES: INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL THEOLOGY - VOL. 17) [SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS STUDIES, CULTURAL STUDIES]

**HANDBOOK OF RELIGION AND THE AUTHORITY OF SCIENCE** JIM R. LEWIS 2010-11-19 THE PRESENT COLLECTION EXAMINES THE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH RELIGIONS APPEAL TO THE AUTHORITY OF SCIENCE. THE RESULT IS A WIDE-RANGING AND UNIQUELY COMPELLING STUDY OF HOW RELIGIONS ADAPT THEIR MESSAGE TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD.

**POLITICS OF RELIGION AND NATIONALISM** FERRAN REQUEJO 2014-12-17 THERE ARE NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OF HOW RELIGION AND NATIONALISM INTERTWINE. IN SOME CASES, A COMMON RELIGION IS THE FUNDAMENTAL MARKER OF A NATION'S IDENTITY, WHEREAS IN OTHERS SECULAR NATIONALISM TRIES TO HOLD TOGETHER PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. THIS BOOK EXAMINES THE LINK BETWEEN RELIGION AND NATIONALISM IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICS. BY EXPLORING CASE STUDIES ON INDIA, RUSSIA, ISRAEL, CANADA, CHECHNYA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, BELGIUM, NORTHERN IRELAND, SCOTLAND, SRI LANKA, CATALONIA AND THE BASQUE COUNTRY, IT SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE TWO KEY SOCIETAL FORMS OF DIVERSITY AND ASSESS THE INTERACTION

BETWEEN RELIGIOUS AND NATIONALIST PERSPECTIVES. EXPERT CONTRIBUTORS EXAMINE A VARIETY OF PHENOMENA, INCLUDING SECULAR NATIONALISM, SECESSIONISM, AND POLITICS IN WHICH RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IS EVOLVING. THIS BOOK WILL BE OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, RELIGION AND POLITICS, NATIONALISM, FEDERALISM, SECESSION, POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, RACIAL AND ETHNIC POLITICS AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS.

*THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL* CHAD MEISTER 2017-06-09 FOR MANY CENTURIES PHILOSOPHERS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM OF EVIL - ONE OF THE GREATEST PROBLEMS OF INTELLECTUAL HISTORY. THERE ARE MANY FACETS TO THE PROBLEM, AND FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE VAST LITERATURE ON THE SUBJECT, GRASPING THE MAIN ISSUES CAN BE A DAUNTING TASK. THIS COMPANION PROVIDES A STIMULATING INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL. MORE THAN AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT, IT IS A STATE-OF-THE-ART CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD WHICH PROVIDES CRITICAL ANALYSES OF AND CREATIVE INSIGHTS ON THIS LONGSTANDING PROBLEM. FRESH THEMES IN THE BOOK INCLUDE EVIL AND THE MEANING OF LIFE, BEAUTY AND EVIL, EVIL AND COSMIC EVOLUTION, AND ANTI-THEODICY. EVIL IS DISCUSSED FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE MAJOR MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS, AGNOSTICISM, AND ATHEISM. WRITTEN BY LEADING SCHOLARS IN CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE PROSE, THIS BOOK IS AN IDEAL COMPANION FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOLARS ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES.

*WHEN TEXAS PRISON SCAMS RELIGION* MICHAEL G. MANESS 2022-01-28 STATE ORDAINED CHILD TORTURER MINISTER PRISONER REPRESENTS THE OFFICES OF THE LT. GOV. DAN PATRICK, TDCJ. BRYAN COLLIER, TCBJ, AND WARDENS THROUGHOUT THE PRISON—BUT THE GREATEST PIECE OF FANTASY IS HOW THE EXECUTIVE CULTURE OF COVER UPS CAME TO SEE THIS FOOL’S PARADE AS GOOD FOR TEXAS, EVEN “GOD’S WILL” TO CHANGE THE WORLD. TDCJ DESTROYS RECORDS OF VIOLENCE AFTER 7 YEARS AND HAS HIRED THE LOWEST QUALIFIED OF THE APPLICANT POOL MANY TIMES IN THE LAST 25 YEARS, EVEN ORDERED THE CLEANING OF CONTRABAND AT THE POLUNSKY PRISON, AND ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR COVERING UP A HORDE WERE PROMOTED! 25 YEARS OF THIS! WHO THINKS A DIRECTOR THAT ALLOWED THAT CAN COMPETENTLY SUPERVISE A NAIVE VOLUNTEER IN A SYSTEMWIDE PROGRAM OF INDENTURING PRISONERS? WHY IS THE DIRECTOR SPONSORING PSYCHOPATHS COUNSELING PSYCHOPATHS? ANSWER? MONEY—SELLING THE FOOL’S PARADE FANTASY THAT BUYING FAITH FROM PRISONERS WITH FAVOR TURNS THEM INTO SAINTS AFTER 4 YEARS OF BIBLE TO NAIVE EVANGELICALS. WHO THINKS IT JUSTICE THAT 400,000,000 HOURS OF OFFICER CONTACT HAS ZERO DEFINITIVE INFLUENCE ON PAROLE WHEN A COMMISSIONER SPENDS

*ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF RELIGION AND POLITICS* JEFFREY HAYNES 2016-01-13 FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE MIDDLE EAST, ASIA AND AFRICA, RELIGION CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND ORGANISATION. THE SECOND EDITION OF THIS SUCCESSFUL HANDBOOK PROVIDES THE DEFINITIVE GLOBAL SURVEY OF THE INTERACTION OF RELIGION AND POLITICS. FEATURING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF EXPERTS, IT EXAMINES THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF ALL THE WORLD’S MAJOR RELIGIONS, INCLUDING SUCH CRUCIAL CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AS RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM, TERRORISM, THE ‘WAR ON TERROR’, THE ‘CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS’, THE ARAB SPRING, AND SCIENCE AND RELIGION. EACH CHAPTER HAS BEEN UPDATED TO REFLECT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND THINKING IN THE FIELD, AND NEW CHAPTERS SUCH AS ‘POSTSECULARISM AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS’ AND ‘SECURITIZATION AND SECULARIZATION: THE TWO PILLARS OF STATE REGULATION OF EUROPEAN ISLAM’ HAVE BEEN ADDED TO ENSURE THE BOOK IS A COMPREHENSIVE AND UP-TO-DATE RESOURCE. FOUR MAIN THEMES ADDRESSED INCLUDE: WORLD RELIGIONS AND POLITICS RELIGION AND GOVERNANCE RELIGION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS RELIGION, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT REFERENCES AT THE END OF EACH CHAPTER HAVE BEEN OVERHAULED TO GUIDE THE READER TOWARDS THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON VARIOUS TOPICS. THIS BOOK IS AN INDISPENSABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS, ACADEMICS AND THE WIDER PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICS AND RELIGION.

*YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS DEMOGRAPHY 2018* 2018-07-19 THE YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS DEMOGRAPHY PRESENTS AN ANNUAL SNAPSHOT OF THE STATE OF RELIGIOUS STATISTICS AROUND THE WORLD (PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE) IN SETS OF TABLES AND SCHOLARLY ARTICLES SPANNING SOCIAL SCIENCE, DEMOGRAPHY, HISTORY, AND GEOGRAPHY.

*THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION* GRAHAM OPPY 2015-04-17 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION HAS EXPERIENCED A RENAISSANCE IN RECENT TIMES, PARALLELING THE RESURGENCE IN PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT THE PLACE AND VALUE OF RELIGION IN CONTEMPORARY WESTERN SOCIETIES. THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION IS AN OUTSTANDING REFERENCE SOURCE TO THE KEY TOPICS, PROBLEMS AND DEBATES IN THIS EXCITING SUBJECT. COMPRISING OVER THIRTY CHAPTERS BY A TEAM OF INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTORS, THE HANDBOOK IS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN PARTS: THEORETICAL ORIENTATIONS CONCEPTIONS OF DIVINITY EPISTEMOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF METAPHYSICS AND RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE RELIGION AND POLITICS RELIGION AND ETHICS RELIGION AND SCIENTIFIC SCRUTINY. WITHIN THESE SECTIONS CENTRAL ISSUES, DEBATES AND PROBLEMS ARE EXAMINED, INCLUDING: RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, RELIGION AND SUPERSTITION, REALISM AND ANTI-REALISM, SCIENTIFIC INTERPRETATION OF RELIGIOUS TEXTS, FEMINIST APPROACHES TO RELIGION, RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE, TOLERANCE, RELIGION AND META-ETHICS, RELIGION AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE, AND THE MEANING OF LIFE. TOGETHER, THEY OFFER READERS AN INFORMED UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN THE LIVELIEST AREAS OF CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION. THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION IS ESSENTIAL READING FOR STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS OF PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION FROM ACROSS THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES.

*DIVINE VIOLENCE AND THE CHRISTUS VICTOR ATONEMENT MODEL* MARTYN J. SMITH 2016-09-23 IN THIS BOOK MARTYN SMITH ADDRESSES THE ISSUE OF GOD’S VIOLENCE AND REFUSES TO SHY AWAY FROM DIFFICULT AND CONTROVERSIAL CONCLUSIONS. THROUGH HIS WIDE-RANGING AND MEASURED STUDY HE REFLECTS UPON GOD AND VIOLENCE IN BOTH BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS, ASSESSING THE IMPLICATIONS OF DIVINE VIOLENCE FOR UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGING WITH GOD’S NATURE AND CHARACTER. JESUS TOO, THROUGH HIS DRAMATIC ACTIONS IN THE TEMPLE, IS PRESENTED AS ONE CAPABLE OF EXHIBITING A SURPRISING DEGREE OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOR IN THE FURTHERANCE OF GOD’S

PURPOSES. THROUGH A REAPPROPRIATION OF THE ANCIENT CHRISTUS VICTOR MODEL OF ATONEMENT, WITH ITS DRAMATIC REPRESENTATION OF GOD’S WAR WITH THE SATAN, SMITH PROPOSES THAT CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH GOD AND SALVATION HAS TO RETURN TO ITS LONG-NEGLECTED PAST IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD, BOTH BIBLICALLY AND DYNAMICALLY, INTO THE FUTURE.

*SPIRITUALITY* ROGER S. GOTTLIEB 2013 ROGER S. GOTTLIEB PROVIDES A LUCID AND ACCESSIBLE OVERVIEW OF WHAT SPIRITUALITY IS, ENABLING A CLEAR-EYED UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT, ITS MANIFOLD CONNECTIONS TO OTHER ASPECTS OF PERSONAL AND SOCIAL LIFE, ITS ROLE AS A POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL PHENOMENON, AND SOME OF THE RISKS THAT ATTEND IT.

*RELIGIOUS TERRORISM* HEATHER GREGG 2020-07-31 HOW CAN THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS, WHICH PROPAGATE PEACE AND LOVE, PROMOTE VIOLENCE AND THE KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS THROUGH TERRORIST ACTS? THIS ELEMENT AIMS TO PROVIDE INSIGHTS INTO THIS PUZZLE BY BEGINNING WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF DEBATES ON TERRORISM, A DISCUSSION ON RELIGION AND THE VARIOUS RESOURCES IT PROVIDES GROUPS ENGAGING IN TERRORIST ACTS, FOUR ARGUMENTS FOR WHAT CAUSES RELIGIOUS TERRORISM, BRIEF EXAMPLES OF RELIGIOUS TERRORISM ACROSS FAITH TRADITIONS, AND A SYNOPSIS OF DERADICALIZATION PROGRAMS. THIS DISCUSSION SHOWS THAT, WHEN COMBINED WITH CERTAIN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, RELIGIONS PROVIDE POWERFUL RESOURCES FOR JUSTIFYING AND MOTIVATING TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST CIVILIANS.

*VANGUARDISM* PHILLIP W. GRAY 2019-12-06 PROVIDING AN INNOVATIVE CONCEPTUALIZATION TO EXTREMIST POLITICAL MOVEMENTS FOUNDED UPON “WORLD-HISTORIC” POPULATIONS AND VANGUARD PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, VANGUARDISM SETS OUT A NEW PATH IN INVESTIGATING THE INTELLECTUAL AND HISTORICAL INFLUENCES THAT CREATED EXTREMIST POLITICS, THE TOTALITARIAN MOVEMENTS AND REGIMES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, AND A FRAMEWORK FOR INTERPRETING EXTREMISM IN THE PRESENT. EXPANDING ITS VIEW ACROSS THE TURBULENT INTELLECTUAL CURRENTS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, PHILIP W. GRAY ILLUSTRATES HOW THESE IDEAS SHAPED THE SHARED IDEATIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES THAT WOULD DEVELOP INTO LENINISM, FASCISM, AND NAZISM IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY. MOVING BEYOND THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE BOOK EXPLICATES HOW VANGUARDISM DID NOT VANISH WITH THE WAR’S CONCLUSION, BUT WAS MODIFIED THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND WESTERN EXTREMIST GROUPS OVER THE ENSUING DECADES. CONCLUDING IN THE PRESENT WITH AN EYE TO THE FUTURE, GRAY PRESENTS A FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENDING THE EXTREMIST MOVEMENT OF TODAY, AND HOW ORGANIZATIONAL SHIFTS CAN GIVE US CLUES TO THE FORMS OF TOTALITARIAN POLITICS OF TOMORROW. ORIGINAL AND PROVOCATIVE, VANGUARDISM WILL BECOME ESSENTIAL READING FOR EVERYONE LOOKING TO UNDERSTAND TOTALITARIANISM AND EXTREMIST POLITICS OF OUR TIME.

*CHRISTIANITY AND VIOLENCE* LLOYD STEFFEN 2021-04-30 HOW CHRISTIAN PEOPLE HAVE FRAMED THE MEANING OF VIOLENCE WITHIN THEIR FAITH TRADITION HAS BEEN A COMPLEX PROCESS SUBJECT TO ALL MANNER OF HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL, ETHNIC AND THEOLOGICAL CONTINGENCIES. AS A TRADITION ENCOMPASSING WIDELY DIVERGENT BELIEFS AND PERSPECTIVES, CHRISTIANITY HAS, OVER TWO MILLENNIA, ADAPTED TO CHANGING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES. TO GRASP THE COMPLEXITY OF THIS TRADITION AND ITS INVOLVEMENT WITH VIOLENCE REQUIRES ATTENTION TO SPECIFIC ELEMENTS EXPLORED IN THIS ELEMENT: THE SCRIPTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SOURCES FOR VIOLENCE; THE FAITH COMMITMENTS AND PRACTICES THAT JOIN COMMUNITIES AND SANCTION BOTH RESISTANCE TO AND AUTHORIZATION FOR VIOLENCE; AND SELECT HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT ALTERED THE POWER WIELDED BY CHRISTIANITY IN SOCIETY, CULTURE AND POLITICS. RELEVANT ISSUES IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND THE MORAL ACTION GUIDES ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AFFIRMED IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES PROVIDE A DEEPER EXPLANATION FOR THE MOTIVATIONS THAT HAVE LED TO THE DIVERSE INTERPRETATIONS OF VIOLENCE AVOWED IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION.

*RELIGIOUS CREDIBILITY UNDER FIRE* LEIF-HAGEN SEIBERT 2018-02-05 LEIF-HAGEN SEIBERT CARRIES OUT A THREE-STEP PRAXEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF EMPIRICAL DATA FROM FIELD STUDIES IN THE RESEARCH PROJECT “THE ETHOS OF RELIGIOUS PEACE BUILDERS” THAT ALLOWS FOR NOVEL ASSESSMENTS OF SOCIETAL CONJUNCTURE (FIELD THEORY), SUBJECTIVE MEANING (HABITUS ANALYSIS), AND THE MUTUAL ‘RULES OF ENGAGEMENT’ OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICE (THE RELIGIOUS NOMOS). OVER THE COURSE OF THIS THREE-STEP ARGUMENT, THE SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPT OF RELIGIOUS CREDIBILITY - I.E. THE DETERMINANTS OF RELIGIOUS LEGITIMACY - GAINS MORE AND MORE CONTOURS AND FACILITATES THE REEVALUATION OF RISKS AND CHANCES IN A PEACE PROCESS WHERE RELIGION IS A VECTOR FOR BOTH PEACE AND DIVISION.

*RELIGION AND VIOLENCE* PAUL R. POWERS 2020-07-29 DOES RELIGION CAUSE MUCH OF THE WORLD’S VIOLENCE? IS RELIGION INHERENTLY VIOLENT? WOULD VIOLENCE DISAPPEAR IF RELIGION DID? IS TRUE RELIGION A FORCE FOR PEACE? IS RELIGION A MASK FOR POWER AND SELF-INTEREST? WHAT ASPECTS OF RELIGION MAKE VIOLENCE MORE—OR LESS—LIKELY? *RELIGION AND VIOLENCE: A RELIGIOUS STUDIES APPROACH* EXPLORES THE POTENTIAL OF CLASSIC SOCIAL THEORIES TO SHED LIGHT ON THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN RELIGION AND VIOLENCE. THIS ACCESSIBLE AND ENGAGING BOOK STARTS FROM THE PREMISE THAT BOTH RELIGION AND VIOLENCE ARE ORDINARY ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL LIFE AND THAT RATHER THAN CAUSING VIOLENCE RELIGION PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF VIOLENCE. IDEAL FOR ANY STUDENT APPROACHING THE TOPIC OF RELIGION AND VIOLENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME, THIS CORE TEXTBOOK INCLUDES CHAPTER OVERVIEWS AND SUMMARIES, GUIDES FOR APPLYING THEORY TO REAL-WORLD EVENTS, DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, AND CASE STUDIES. FURTHER TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE ACCOMPANYING COMPANION WEBSITE.

*TERROR IN THE MIND OF GOD, FOURTH EDITION* MARK JUERGENSMEYER 2017-03-28 “COMPLETELY REVISED AND UPDATED, THIS NEW EDITION OF TERROR IN THE MIND OF GOD INCORPORATES THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 INTO MARK JUERGENSMEYER’S LANDMARK STUDY OF RELIGIOUS TERRORISM. JUERGENSMEYER EXPLORES THE 1993 WORLD TRADE CENTER EXPLOSION, HAMAS SUICIDE BOMBINGS, THE TOKYO SUBWAY NERVE GAS ATTACK, AND THE KILLING OF ABORTION CLINIC DOCTORS IN THE UNITED STATES. HIS PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH 1993 WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBER MAHMUD ABOUHALIMA, CHRISTIAN RIGHT ACTIVIST MIKE BRAY, HAMAS LEADERS SHEIK YASSIN AND ABDUL AZIS RANTISI, AND SIKH POLITICAL LEADER SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN, AMONG OTHERS, TAKE US INTO THE MINDSET OF THOSE WHO PERPETRATE AND SUPPORT VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF

RELIGION."--PROVIDED BY PUBLISHER.

**ELEMENTS OF RITUAL AND VIOLENCE** MARGO KITTS 2018-03-31 RITUALIZED VIOLENCE IS BY DEFINITION NOT HAPHAZARD OR RANDOM, BUT SEEMINGLY INTENTIONAL AND OFTEN CEREMONIAL. IT HAS A LONG HISTORY IN RELIGIOUS PRACTICE, AS ATTESTED IN TEXTS AND ARTIFACTS FROM THE EARLIEST CIVILIZATIONS. IT IS EQUALLY EVIDENT IN THE BEHAVIORS OF SOME CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS ACTIVISTS AND WITHIN INITIATORY PRACTICES ONGOING IN MANY REGIONS OF THE WORLD. GIVEN ITS LONGEVITY AND CULTURAL EXPANSE, RITUALIZED VIOLENCE PRESUMABLY EXERTS A PULL DEEPLY INTO THE SOCIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, THEOLOGY, PERHAPS EVEN ONTOLOGY OF ITS PRACTITIONERS, BUT THIS IS NOT TRANSPARENT. THIS SHORT VOLUME WILL SKETCH THE SUBJECT OF RITUALIZED VIOLENCE, THAT IS, IT WILL SUMMARIZE SOME ESTABLISHED THEORIES ABOUT RITUAL AND ABOUT VIOLENCE, AND WILL PONDER A HANDFUL OF STRIKING INSTANTIATIONS OF THEIR LINK.

**THE ASHGATE RESEARCH COMPANION TO ANTHROPOLOGY** ANDREW J. STRATHERN 2016-03-03 THIS COMPANION PROVIDES AN INDISPENSABLE OVERVIEW OF CONTEMPORARY AND CLASSICAL ISSUES IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY. ALTHOUGH ANTHROPOLOGY HAS EXPANDED GREATLY OVER TIME IN TERMS OF THE DIVERSITY OF TOPICS IN WHICH ITS PRACTITIONERS ENGAGE, MANY OF THE BROAD THEMES AND TOPICS AT THE HEART OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THOUGHT REMAIN PERENNIALY VITAL, SUCH AS UNDERSTANDING ORDER AND CHANGE, DIVERSITY AND CONTINUITY, AND CONFLICT AND CO-OPERATION IN THE REPRODUCTION OF SOCIAL LIFE. BRINGING TOGETHER LEADING SCHOLARS IN THE FIELD, THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS VOLUME PROVIDE US WITH THOUGHTFUL AND FRUITFUL WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT A NUMBER OF CONTEMPORARY AND LONG-STANDING ARENAS OF WORK WHERE BOTH ESTABLISHED AND MORE RECENT RESEARCHERS ARE ENGAGED. THE COMPANION BEGINS BY EXPLORING CLASSIC TOPICS SUCH AS RELIGION; RITUALS; LANGUAGE AND CULTURE; VIOLENCE; AND GENDER. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY A FOCUS ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE DISCIPLINE INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS; GLOBALIZATION; AND DIASPORAS AND COSMOPOLITANISM. IT PROVIDES AN INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING LOOK AT THE STATE OF CURRENT THINKING IN ANTHROPOLOGY, SERVING AS A RICH RESOURCE FOR SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS ALIKE.

**MARTYRDOM, SELF-SACRIFICE, AND SELF-IMMOLATION** MARGO KITTS 2018-05-01 SUICIDE IN THE FORMS OF MARTYRDOM, SELF-SACRIFICE, OR SELF-IMMOLATION IS PERENNIALY CONTROVERSIAL: SHOULD IT RIGHTLY BE TERMED SUICIDE? DOES RELIGION SANCTION IT? SHOULD IT BE CELEBRATED OR ANATHEMATIZED? AT LEAST SOME IDEALIZATION OF SUCH SELF-CHOSEN DEATHS IS FOUND IN EVERY RELIGIOUS TRADITION TREATED IN THIS VOLUME, FROM ASCETIC HEROES WHO CONQUER THEIR PASSIONS TO SAVE OTHERS BY DYING, TO RIGHTEOUS WARRIORS WHO SUFFER AND DIE VALIANTLY WHILE CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE PERSISTENT DISPUTES ABOUT THE CONCEPTS USED TO JUSTIFY THESE DEATHS, SUCH AS ALTRUISM, HEROISM, AND RELIGION ITSELF. IN THIS VOLUME, RENOWNED SCHOLARS BRING THEIR LITERARY AND HISTORICAL EXPERTISE TO BEAR ON THE

CONTESTED ISSUE OF RELIGIOUSLY SANCTIONED SUICIDE. THREE EXAMINE CONTEMPORARY MOVEMENTS WITH DISPUTED CLASSICAL ROOTS, WHILE ELEVEN LOOK AT CLASSICAL RELIGIOUS LITERATURES WHICH VARIOUSLY LAUD AND DISPARAGE FIGURES WHO INVITE SELF-HARM TO THE POINT OF DEATH. OVERALL, THE VOLUME OFFERS AN IMPORTANT SCHOLARLY CORRECTIVE TO THE AXIOM THAT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS SIMPLY AND ALWAYS EMBRACE LIFE AT ANY COST.

**VIOLENCE AND THE WORLD'S RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS** MARK JUERGENSMEYER 2017 THOUGH MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT PARTICULAR FORMS OF VIOLENCE RELATED TO RELIGION, SUCH AS SACRIFICIAL RITES AND MILITANT MARTYRDOM, THERE HAVE BEEN FEW EFFORTS TO SURVEY THE PHENOMENA IN ALL OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, HISTORICALLY AND IN THE PRESENT, VIEWING THE SUBJECT IMPERSONAL AS WELL AS SOCIAL DIMENSIONS, AND COVERING BOTH LITERARY THEMES AND POLITICAL CONFLICTS. THIS COMPACT COLLECTION OF ESSAYS PROVIDES SUCH AN OVERVIEW. EACH OF THE ESSAYS EXPLORES THE WAYS IN WHICH VIOLENCE IS JUSTIFIED WITHIN THE LITERARY AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF THE TRADITION, HOW IT IS USED SYMBOLICALLY AND IN RITUAL PRACTICE, AND HOW SOCIAL ACTS OF VENGEANCE AND WARFARE HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED BY RELIGIOUS IDEAS. THE NATURE OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN VIOLENCE AND FAITH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TOPIC OF HEATED DEBATE, ESPECIALLY AS ACTS OF VIOLENCE PERFORMED IN THE NAME OF RELIGION HAVE ERUPTED ONTO THE GLOBAL STAGE. SOME SCHOLARS ARGUE THAT THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE ARE NOT REALLY RELIGIOUS AT ALL, BUT SYMPTOMATIC OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY OR HUMAN NATURE. OTHERS HOWEVER POINT TO THE FACT THAT OFTEN THE PERPETRATORS OF THESE ACTS CITE THE FAITH'S OWN FOUNDATIONAL TEXTS AS THEIR INSPIRATION - AND THAT THE OCCURRENCE OF VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION EXISTS ACROSS ALL FAITH TRADITIONS. IS VIOLENCE, THEN, THERE AN EXCEPTION IN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OR IS IT ONE OF THE RULES? THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS VOLUME EXPLORE MANY POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THIS QUESTION AND MYRIAD OTHERS. HOW IS RELIGION DEFINED? MUST A RELIGION BE CENTERED ON SUPERNATURAL BEINGS? DOES THE TERM REFER TO SOCIAL BEHAVIOR OR PRIVATE? IS DOGMA OR PRACTICE THE KEY TO ITS ESSENCE? IS IT A PHILOSOPHICAL SYSTEM OR A POETIC STRUCTURE? AND HOW SHOULD VIOLENCE BE DEFINED? FROM WHOSE PERSPECTIVE AND AT WHAT POINT IS AN ACT TO BE DEEMED VIOLENT? WHAT ACT CANNOT BE CONSTRUED AS VIOLENT IN SOME WAY? FOR INSTANCE, ARE WE TALKING ONLY ABOUT WAR AND GENOCIDE, OR PSYCHOLOGICAL COERCION, SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS AND BINDING CATEGORIZATIONS? COLLECTIVELY, THE ESSAYS IN THIS VOLUME REFLECT THE COMPLEX AND CONTESTED MEANINGS OF BOTH RELIGION AND VIOLENCE, PROVIDING OVERVIEWS OF ENGAGEMENTS WITH VIOLENCE IN HINDU, BUDDHIST, CHINESE, SIKH, JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, ISLAMIC, AFRICAN, AND PACIFIC ISLAND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS. BY SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE INTERSECTION OF VIOLENCE WITH FAITH, THIS VOLUME DOES MUCH TO EXPAND THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF RELIGION ITSELF, AND THE DIVERSE FORMS IT MAY TAKE.