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978-0-521-51885-7 - The Religious in Responses to Mass Atrocity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Edited by Thomas Brudholm and Thomas Cushman

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## THE RELIGIOUS IN RESPONSES TO MASS ATROCITY

A peculiar and fascinating aspect of many responses to mass atrocities is the creative and eclectic use of religious language and frameworks. Some crimes are so extreme that they “cry out to heaven,” drawing people to employ religious vocabulary to make meaning of and to judge what happened, to deal with questions of guilt and responsibility, and to reestablish hope and trust in their lives. Moreover, in recent years, religious actors have become increasingly influential in worldwide contexts of conflict-resolution and transitional justice. This collection offers a critical assessment of the possibilities and problems pertaining to attempts to bring religious – or semireligious – allegiances and perspectives to bear in responses to the mass atrocities of our time: When and how can religious language or religious beliefs and practices be either necessary or helpful? And what are the problems and reasons for caution or critique? In this book, a group of distinguished scholars explore these questions and offer a range of original explanatory and normative perspectives.

**Thomas Brudholm** is Associate Professor at the University of Copenhagen and Consulting Researcher at the Danish Institute of International Studies. He has his Ph.D. in philosophy and his publications focus on conceptual and normative issues arising in the aftermath of mass violence. Brudholm has been visiting scholar at prestigious research institutes in Denmark and abroad, including CERI/Sciences Po (Paris). He has edited and contributed to several books, and, in 2008, he published *Resentment's Virtue: Jean Améry and the Refusal to Forgive*. He has contributed articles to the *Journal of Human Rights*, the *Hedgehog Review*, *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*, and *Law & Contemporary Problems* (forthcoming).

**Thomas Cushman** is Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Sociology at Wellesley College. He is the author and editor of many books on topics including counterculture in Russia, genocide, George Orwell, human rights, and the war in Iraq. He is the founder and was editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Human Rights*. He is an honorary Professor in the Social Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa and a Faculty Associate of the Center for Cultural Sociology at Yale University and has been Visiting Professor at Brandeis University and Birkbeck College, University of London.

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# The Religious in Responses to Mass Atrocity

## Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Edited by

**THOMAS BRUDHOLM**

University of Copenhagen

**THOMAS CUSHMAN**

Wellesley College



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*This volume is dedicated to the memory of  
Eric Markusen, who brought us together.*

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## Contributors

**Nigel Biggar** is Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology at the University of Oxford and a former president of the (UK) Society for the Study of Christian Ethics. He is the author of “Forgiveness in the Twentieth Century: A Review of the Literature, 1901–2001,” in *Forgiveness and Truth*, ed. Alistair McFadyen and Marcel Sarot (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2001); “Making Peace and Doing Justice: Must We Choose?” in *Burying the Past: Making Peace and Doing Justice after Civil Conflict*, ed. Nigel Biggar (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2003); “Between Development and Doubt: The Recent Career of Just War Doctrine in British Churches,” in *The Price of Peace: Just War in the Twenty-first Century*, ed. Charles Reed and David Ryall (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007); and “Forgiving Enemies in Ireland,” *Journal of Religious Ethics*, forthcoming.

**Thomas Brudholm** is Associate Professor in the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at the University of Copenhagen. While editing this book he was Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies. He is author of *Resentment’s Virtue: Jean Améry and the Refusal to Forgive* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008) and of several articles in international journals on responses to mass atrocities. He has coedited a special issue of the *Journal of Human Rights* on “negative” emotions (vol. 5, 2006) and two Danish books: on genocide commemoration and on the problems facing a variety of different disciplinary approaches to the aftermath of genocide.

**Thomas Cushman** is Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Sociology Department at Wellesley. He is the founding editor and editor-at-large of the *Journal of Human Rights* and the editor of the *Routledge International Handbook of Human Rights* (2009). He is currently at work on a book entitled *A Recovery of Liberal Internationalism: A League of Democracies*.

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**Peter Dews** is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Essex. He has published widely on nineteenth- and twentieth-century European philosophy, with a focus on German Idealism, the Frankfurt School, and modern French philosophy. He has held numerous visiting positions, including at the University of Konstanz, at Columbia University, and at the New School for Social Research. He is the author of *Logics of Disintegration* (London: Verso, 1987, new edition 2007), *The Limits of Disenchantment: Essays on Contemporary European Philosophy* (London: Verso, 1995), and *The Idea of Evil* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007).

**Antony Duff** is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Stirling, where he has taught since 1970. He is the author of *Trials and Punishments* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986); *Intention, Agency and Criminal Liability* (1990); *Criminal Attempts* (1996); *Punishment, Communication and Community* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001); and *Answering for Crime* (2007); and coauthor of *The Trial on Trial III: Towards a Normative Theory of the Criminal Trial* (2007). With three colleagues, he is now working on a large research project on the issue of criminalization.

**Jennifer L. Geddes** is Research Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. She is the author of numerous articles and book chapters on evil and suffering, Holocaust testimony, and the ethics of interpretation, as well as the editor of the award-winning journal, the *Hedgehog Review: Critical Reflections on Contemporary Culture*; *Evil after Postmodernism: Histories, Narratives, Ethics* (New York: Routledge, 2001); and *The Double Binds of Ethics after the Holocaust*, with John K. Roth and Julius Simon (forthcoming from Palgrave Macmillan).

**Arne Grøn** is Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion at the University of Copenhagen, as well as Cofounder of the Danish National Research Foundation's Center for Subjectivity Research. He is the author of numerous publications on ethics, philosophy of religion, theory of subjectivity, and history of philosophy. He is the coeditor of *Subjectivity and Transcendence* (Tuebingen, Germany: Mohr Siebeck, 2007).

**Daniel Philpott** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He specializes in religion and global politics and in the politics of transitional justice. He is the author of *Revolutions in*



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*Sovereignty: How Ideas Shaped Modern International Relations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001) and editor of *The Politics of Past Evil: Religion, Reconciliation, and Transitional Justice* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2006).

**John Torpey** is Professor of Sociology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Among other works, he is the author of *Making Whole What Has Been Smashed: On Reparations Politics* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006) and editor of *Politics and the Past: On Repairing Historical Injustices* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004). His current work focuses on the idea of “American exceptionalism.”

**Bryan S. Turner** was Professor of Sociology at the University of Cambridge (1998–2005) and at the National University of Singapore (2005–2009) and is currently the Alona B. Evans Distinguished Visiting Professor of Sociology at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, United States. He edited the *Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology* (2006) and recently published *Vulnerability and Human Rights* (2006) and *Rights and Virtues* (2008). He is currently editing the *Routledge Handbook of Globalization Studies* and *The New Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion*.

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