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978-0-521-51885-7 — The Religious in Responses to Mass Atrocity
Interdisciplinary Perspectives
Edited by Thomas Brudholm , 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).

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The Religious in Responses to Mass Atrocity

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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521518857

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First published 2009
First paperback edition 2013

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data
The religious in responses to mass atrocity : interdisciplinary perspectives / [edited by] Thomas
Brudholm, Thomas Cushman.
p. cm.
Proceedings of a conference held May 12–13, 2006 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 978-0-521-51885-7 (hardback)
1. Violence–Religious aspects–Congresses. 2. Atrocities–History–Congresses.
I. Brudholm, Thomas, 1969–
II. Cushman, Thomas, 1959– III. Title.
BL65.V55R56 2009
201′.76332–dc22 2008052022

ISBN 978-0-521-51885-7 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-107-62475-7 Paperback

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

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The chapters in this volume were first presented at a conference on "The Religious in Responses to Mass Atrocity," which was held in Copenhagen on May 12–13, 2006, and hosted by the Danish Institute for International Studies. The conference was made possible by the cooperation and generous support from several sources. The major source of funding came from the University of Copenhagen, which embarked on a university-wide research initiative from 2003 to 2007 on "Religion in the 21st Century." The aim of this initiative was to bring together researchers from all of the University of Copenhagen's six faculties in order to combine the study of separate themes into an overall picture of religion in the twenty-first century. The idea behind the present volume was developed on the basis of discussions in this research network, and we wish to thank its steering committee for its support of the conference and for its funding of the preparatory work. Additional funding was provided by the Danish Institute for International Studies, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Danish National Research Foundation's Center for Subjectivity Research, and Wellesley College and the *Journal of Human Rights*. We would like to thank all of these institutions for their interest in the project. A special thanks goes to Nanna Hvidt and Arne Grøn for their enthusiastic and generous support of the entire project.

Thomas Brudholm also wishes to thank the Danish Research Council for the Humanities for its support of the editorial work.

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