There might appear to be little that binds the study of order and the study of violence and conflict. Bloodshed in its multiple forms is often seen as something separate from and unrelated to the domains of “normal” politics that constitute what we think of as order. But violence is used to create order, to maintain it, and to uphold it in the face of challenges. This volume demonstrates the myriad ways in which order and violence are inextricably intertwined. The chapters embrace such varied disciplines as political science, economics, history, sociology, philosophy, and law; employ different methodologies, from game theory to statistical modeling to in-depth historical narrative to anthropological ethnography; and focus on different units of analysis and levels of aggregation, from the state to the individual to the world system. All are essential reading for anyone who seeks to understand current trends in global conflict.

Stathis N. Kalyvas is Arnold Wolfers Professor of Political Science at Yale University, where he directs the Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence. He is the author of *The Logic of Violence in Civil War* (2006) and *The Rise of Christian Democracy in Europe* (1996).

Ian Shapiro is Sterling Professor of Political Science at Yale University, where he also serves as Henry R. Luce Director of the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. His most recent books are *Containment: Rebuilding a Strategy against Global Terror* (2007), *The Flight from Reality in the Human Sciences* (2005), and *Death by a Thousand Cuts: The Fight over Taxing Inherited Wealth* (with Michael Graetz, 2006).

Tarek Masoud is a doctoral candidate in Political Science at Yale University. He is the editor of *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics* (with Ian Shapiro and Rogers M. Smith, 2004).
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Contributors

Robert H. Bates Department of Government, Harvard University

Carles Boix Department of Politics and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

Lars-Erik Cederman Center for Comparative and International Studies, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich

Lucy Chester Department of History, University of Colorado at Boulder

Francisco Gutiérrez Sanín Institute for Political Studies and International Relations, Colombia National University, Bogotá.

Michael Hechter School of Global Studies, Arizona State University

Isabel V. Hull Department of History, Cornell University

Courtney Jung Department of Political Science, New School University

Nika Kabiri Department of Sociology, University of Washington

Stathis N. Kalyvas Department of Political Science, Yale University

Ellen Lust-Okar Department of Political Science, Yale University

Tarek Masoud Department of Political Science, Yale University

Karma Nabulsi St. Edmund Hall, University of Oxford

Robert J. Sampson Department of Sociology, Harvard University

Ian Shapiro Department of Political Science and the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University

Jack L. Snyder Department of Political Science, Columbia University

Scott Straus Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Leslie Vinjamuri  Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and
Department of Government, Georgetown University

Per-Olof H. Wikström University of Cambridge

Steven I. Wilkinson Department of Political Science, University of Chicago

Elisabeth Jean Wood Department of Political Science, Yale University
Preface

This volume emerged from a conference on “Order, Conflict, and Violence” held at Yale in May of 2004. It is one of a series of books to come out of the Yale Political Science Initiative on “Rethinking Political Order.” Other volumes resulting from the Initiative are Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics, edited by Ian Shapiro, Rogers Smith, and Tarek Masoud (Cambridge University Press 2004); Rethinking Political Institutions: The Art of the State, edited by Ian Shapiro, Stephen Skowronek, and Daniel Galvin (New York University Press 2006); Identities, Affiliations, and Allegiances, edited by Seyla Benhabib, Ian Shapiro, and Danilo Petranovich (Cambridge University Press 2007); Political Contingency: Studying the Unexpected, the Accidental, and the Unforeseen, edited by Ian Shapiro and Sonu Bedi (New York University Press 2007); Divide and Deal: The Politics of Distribution in Democracies, edited by Ian Shapiro, Peter Swenson, and Daniela Donno (New York University Press 2008); and Representation and Popular Rule, edited by Ian Shapiro, Susan Stokes, Elisabeth Wood, and Alexander Kirshner (in press).

We are pleased to record our gratitude to Yale University for the financial support that has made this initiative possible. Thanks are due to Sage Publications for permission to reprint Courtney Jung, Ellen Lust-Okar, and Ian Shapiro’s essay, “Problems and Prospects for Democratic Settlements: South Africa as a Model for the Middle East and Northern Ireland?” which first appeared in Politics and Society 33:2 (June 2005), in the present volume. Pamela Bosward, Alice Kustenbauter, Anne Nguyen, and Sandra Nuhn all deserve recognition for invaluable organizational and editorial assistance. Finally, we owe special thanks to the two anonymous reviewers for their excellent feedback, and to John Haslam and Carrie Cheek, our editors at Cambridge University Press, for helping to bring this volume to completion.