## Contents

*Contributors  page vii

*Acknowledgments  x

**Introduction** 1

**JAMES R. LEWIS**

1. **Does Religion Cause Terrorism?** 11  
**MARK JUERGENSMEYER**

2. **Religion, Violence, Nonsense, and Power** 23  
**WILLIAM T. CAVANAUGH**

3. **Discounting Religion in the Explanation of Homegrown Terrorism: A Critique** 32  
**LORNE L. DAWSON**

4. **Religion, Radicalization and the Causes of Terrorism** 46  
**TOM MILLS AND DAVID MILLER**

5. **The Role of the Devoted Actor in War, Revolution, and Terrorism** 69  
**SCOTT ATRAN**

6. **Girard on Apocalypse and Terrorism** 89  
**ESPEN DAHL**

**STEPHEN NEMETH**

8. **Terror as Sacrificial Ritual? A Discussion of (Neo-)Durkheimian Approaches to Suicide Bombing** 116  
**LORENZ GRAITL**
vi  Contents

9  Imitations of Terror: Applying a Retro Style of Analysis to the Religion-
Terrorism Nexus  132
James R. Lewis

10 The LTTE: A Nonreligious, Political, Martial Movement for Establishing the
Right of Self-Determination of Ilattamils  146
Peter Schalk

11 The Role of Religion in al-Qaeda’s Violence  158
Pieter Nanninga

12 Meanings of Savagery: Terror, Religion and the Islamic State  172
Pieter Nanninga

13 Where’s Charlie? The Discourse of Religious Violence in France Post-7/1/2015  191
Per-Erik Nilsson

14 Understanding the Threat of the Islamic State in Contemporary Kyrgyzstan  203
Meerim Aitkulova

15 Terror and the Screen: Keeping the Relationship of Good and Bad Virtual  216
Christopher Hartney

16 Understanding Falun Gong’s Martyrdom Strategy as Spiritual Terrorism  235
James R. Lewis and Nicole S. D’Amico

Index  255