

## WEAPON OF PEACE

### *How Religious Liberty Combats Terrorism*

Religious terrorism poses a significant challenge for many countries around the world. Extremists who justify violence in God's name can be found in every religious tradition, and attacks perpetrated by faith-based militants have increased dramatically over the past three decades. Given the reality of religious terrorism today, it would seem counter-intuitive that the best weapon against violent religious extremism would be for countries and societies to allow for the free practice of religion; yet this is precisely what this book argues. *Weapon of Peace* investigates the link between terrorism and the repression of religion, both from a historical perspective and against contemporary developments in the Middle East and elsewhere. Drawing upon a range of different case studies and quantitative data, Saiya makes the case that the suppression and not the expression of religion leads to violence and extremism and that safeguarding religious freedom is both a moral and strategic imperative.

Nilay Saiya is assistant professor of public policy and global affairs at Nanyang Technological University.

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Nilay Saiya  
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HOW RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMBATS TERRORISM

**NILAY SAIYA**

Nanyang Technological University



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*For Jessica, Cristiano and Sanjay*

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