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## VIOLENCE AND RELIGIOUS CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Garry Trompf  
*University of Sydney*

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# Violence and Religious Change in the Pacific Islands

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Garry Trompf

*University of Sydney*

Author for correspondence: Garry Trompf, [garry.trompf@sydney.edu.au](mailto:garry.trompf@sydney.edu.au)

**ABSTRACT:** This Element considers patterns of violent behaviour among the inhabitants of the Pacific Islands while their vast region has been undergoing religious change, overwhelmingly towards Christianity. Major topics researched are religion-based violent reactions to early intruders (including missionaries); new religious movements resisting unwanted interference (including ‘cargo cults’); anti-colonial rebellions inspired by spiritual impetuses both indigenous and introduced; and the persistence of traditional modes of violence (tribal fighting, sorcery and tough punishments) adapted to altered conditions.

**KEYWORDS:** violence, religion, Oceania, social change, cargo cults

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