

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-009-48300-1 — Constructing Religious Martyrdom John Soboslai Table of Contents More Information

Contents

	Acknowledgments	page ix
	Abbreviations of Ancient Sources	xii
1	Introduction: Concerning Martyrdom	1
	The Practice and Discourse of Martyrdom	7
	Martyrdom as (Self-)Sacrifice	14
	On Suicide	19
	The Politics of Martyrdom	27
	Interpreting Martyrdom	37
	Comparative Approach and Introduction to Cases	45
2	Executed Martyrs in Second-Century Christianity	64
	Introduction	64
	Cultural Precedence for Christian Martyrdom	75
	The World of Second Century Christianities	84
	Legal Recourse against Christians	98
	Constructing Christian Martyrs	113
	The Testimony of Christian Witnesses	126
	Conclusion	136
3	The Human Bombs of Twentieth-Century Shi'i Islam	139
	Introduction	139
	The Shi'a Awakening	153
	Jihad against Oppression	165
	Developing Martyrology in Medieval Shi'i Islam	180
	Constructing Martyrdom Operations	189
	Witnessing (in) Islam	202
	Conclusion	213

vii



Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-009-48300-1 — Constructing Religious Martyrdom John Soboslai Table of Contents More Information

viii contents

4	Sikh Martyr Imaginaries during World War I	218
	Introduction	218
	The Situation inside and outside Imperial India	229
	The Great War	242
	Martyrs for Righteousness	250
	True to One's Salt	261
	Conclusion	269
5	Twenty-First-Century Tibetan Self-Immolators	272
	Introduction	272
	The Conflict with the People's Republic of China	280
	Fears of Losing Tibet	291
	Self-Immolation as Sacrificial Offering	298
	Suffering, Coercion, and the Truth of Tibet	309
	Conclusion	320
6	Performances of Suffering: The Drama of Martyrdom	323
	Comparing Practices and Discourses of Martyrdom	323
	Settings	335
	Scripts and Roles	339
	Audience	347
	Martyrologists	353
	The Martyr's Performance	358
7	Witnesses to a Sovereign Imaginary	362
	Pain, Truth, and Witnessing	362
	Sovereign Imaginaries	375
	The Hermeneutics of Sovereignty	387
	Sovereign Performances	392
	Conclusion: The Witness of Martyrdom	396
	Epilogue	402
	Bibliography	409
	Index	439