

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-44565-8 — Falun Gong
James R. Lewis
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Cambridge Elements[≡]

Elements in Religion and Violence

edited by

James R. Lewis

University of Tromsø

and

Margo Kitts

Hawai'i Pacific University

FALUN GONG

Spiritual Warfare and Martyrdom

James R. Lewis

University of Tromsø



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-44565-8 — Falun Gong
James R. Lewis
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108445658
DOI: 10.1017/9781108564557

© James R. Lewis 2018

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2018

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-108-44565-8 Paperback
ISSN 2397-9496 (online)
ISSN 2514-3786 (print)

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of
URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication
and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,
accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-44565-8 — Falun Gong
James R. Lewis
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Cambridge Elements

Falun Gong

Spiritual Warfare and Martyrdom

James R. Lewis
University of Tromsø

ABSTRACT: Falun Gong, founded by Li Hongzhi in 1992, attracted international attention in 1999 after staging a demonstration outside of government offices in Beijing. It was subsequently banned. Followers then created a number of media outlets outside of China focused on protesting the People's Republic of China's attack on the "human rights" of practitioners. This volume focuses on Falun Gong and violence. Although I will note accusations of how Chinese authorities have abused and tortured practitioners, the volume will focus on Li Hongzhi's teachings about "spiritual warfare" and how these teachings have motivated practitioners to deliberately seek brutalization and martyrdom.

KEYWORDS: Falun Gong, Li Hongzhi, Religious Violence, Cults

© James R. Lewis 2018
ISBNs: 9781108445658 PB, 9781108564557 OC
DOI: 10.1017/9781108564557

Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Falun Gong versus the People's Republic of China	7
3 Li Hongzhi: The New Buddha?	24
4 Apocalypticism, Karma, and Spiritual Warfare	42
5 Interpreting the 1.23 Incident	58
6 Falun Gong Media Strategies	76
Afterword	90
References and Bibliography of English- Language Resources on Falun Gong	99