

TERRORISM AND LITERATURE

Terrorism has long been a major shaping force in the world. However, the meanings of terrorism, as a word and as a set of actions, are intensely contested. This volume explores how literature has dealt with terrorism from the Renaissance to the present, inviting the reader to make connections between older instances of terrorism and contemporary ones, and illustrating how the various literary treatments of terrorism draw on each other. The essays demonstrate that the debates around terrorism only give the fictive imagination more room, and that fiction has a great deal to offer in terms of both understanding terrorism and our responses to it. Written by historians and literary critics, the essays provide knowledge that is essential to the understanding of terrorism in its full complexity. As befitting a global problem, this book brings together a truly international group of scholars, with representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Italy, Israel, and other countries.

PETER C. HERMAN is a professor of English Literature at San Diego State University. His most recent publications are *A Short History of Early Modern England: British Literature in Context* (2011), *Royal Poetrie: Monarchic Verse and the Political Imaginary of Early Modern England* (2010), *The New Milton Criticism* (2012), and *Destabilizing Milton: Paradise Lost and the Poetics of Incertitude* (2005). His book, *Literature and Terrorism from the Gunpowder Plot to 9/11: Representing the Unspeakable*, is forthcoming in 2019.

CAMBRIDGE CRITICAL CONCEPTS

Cambridge Critical Concepts focuses on the important ideas animating twentieth- and twenty-first-century literary studies. Each concept addressed in the series has had a profound impact on literary studies, as well as on other disciplines, and already has a substantial critical bibliography surrounding it. This series captures the dynamic critical energies transmitted across twentieth- and twenty-first-century literary landscapes: the concepts critics bring to reading, interpretation and criticism. By addressing the origins, development and application of these ideas, the books collate and clarify how these particular concepts have developed, while also featuring fresh insights and establishing new lines of enquiry.

Cambridge Critical Concepts shifts the focus from period- or genre-based literary studies of key terms to the history and development of the terms themselves. Broad and detailed contributions cumulatively identify and investigate the various historical and cultural catalysts that made these critical concepts emerge as established twenty-first-century landmarks in the discipline. The level will be suitable for advanced undergraduates, graduates and specialists, as well as to those teaching outside their own research areas, and will have cross-disciplinary relevance for subjects such as history and philosophy.

Published Titles

Law and Literature

Edited by KIERAN DOLIN University of Western Australia

Time and Literature

Edited by THOMAS M. ALLEN University of Ottawa

The Global South and Literature

Edited by RUSSELL WEST-PAVLOV University of Tübingen

Trauma and Literature

Edited by ROGER KURTZ The College at Brockport, State University of New York

Food and Literature

Edited by GITANJALI SHAHANI San Francisco State University

Animals, Animality, and Literature

Edited by BRUCE BOEHRER, MOLLY HAND and BRIAN MASSUMI Florida State University, University of Montreal

Terrorism and Literature

Edited by PETER C. HERMAN San Diego State University

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-49824-1 — Terrorism and Literature
Edited by Peter C. Herman
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Forthcoming Titles

Orientalism and Literature

Edited by GEOFFREY NASH University of Sunderland

Technology and Literature

Edited by ADAM HAMMOND University of Toronto

Affect and Literature

Edited by ALEX HOUEN University of Cambridge

Climate and Literature

Edited by ADELINE JOHNS University of Surrey

Decadence and Literature

Edited by JANE DESMARAIS and DAVID WEIR Goldsmith College and Hunter College

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-49824-1 — Terrorism and Literature
Edited by Peter C. Herman
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

TERRORISM AND LITERATURE

EDITED BY
PETER C. HERMAN
San Diego State University



Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-49824-1 — Terrorism and Literature
 Edited by Peter C. Herman
 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/9781108498241
 DOI: 10.1017/9781316987292

© Cambridge University Press 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

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Herman, Peter C., 1958– editor.

TITLE: Terrorism and literature / edited by Peter Herman.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2018. | Series: Cambridge critical concepts

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2018011093 | ISBN 9781108498241

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Terrorism in literature. | Terrorism – History.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PN56.T45 T47 2018 | DDC 809/.933556–dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018011093>

ISBN 978-1-108-49824-1 Hardback

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.

Contents

<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>page</i> x
Introduction: Terrorism and Literature <i>Peter C. Herman</i>	i
PART I ORIGINS: THE VARIETIES OF TERRORISM	17
1 Savagery and the Sacred: The Rhetoric of Terror and Its Consequences in the Scriptural Monotheisms <i>Reuven Firestone</i>	19
2 Early Modern Terrorism <i>Robert Appelbaum</i>	36
3 “Carrying Justice in Their Hearts”: The Terror in the French Revolution <i>Lindsay A. H. Parker</i>	53
4 Methodology and Martyrs: Irish American Republicanism in the Late Nineteenth Century <i>Gillian O’Brien</i>	70
5 “The Play’s the Thing”: How Governments in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century North America Used “Terrorism” to Further Their Own Aims <i>Nathan M. Greenfield</i>	90
6 The Nation-State’s Other: Postcolonial Terrorism in the Indian Context <i>Rini Bhattacharya Mehta</i>	110
7 Conflict and Violence in the Early Northern Irish Troubles <i>Simon Prince</i>	128

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
8	Social-Revolutionary Violence in Western Europe: The Case of the Red Brigades' Trajectory during the 1970s and Early 1980s <i>Lorenzo Bosi</i>	148
9	Terrorism in the Middle East <i>David Cook</i>	160
	PART II DEVELOPMENT: TERRORISM IN LITERATURE	175
10	Terrorism in Literature to 1642 <i>Robert Appelbaum</i>	177
11	"Terror in Inquisition": Terrorists and Inquisitors in the British Gothic Literature of the 1790s <i>Joseph Crawford</i>	196
12	"Parliament Is Burning": Dynamite, Terrorism, and the English Novel <i>Deaglán Ó Donghaile</i>	212
13	Dostoevsky's Terrorism Trilogy <i>Lynn Patyk</i>	230
14	Perils and Pleasures of the Bloody Oath: The Nihilist Conspiracy in American Popular Fiction, 1881–1901 <i>Ann Larabee</i>	246
15	Staging the Limit: Albert Camus's <i>Just Assassins</i> and the Il/legitimacy of Terrorism <i>Ève Morisi</i>	263
16	Gillo Pontecorvo's <i>The Battle of Algiers</i> and Terrorism on Film <i>Tony Shaw</i>	283
17	"Something in the Making": The Troubles and the Singularity of Northern Irish Literature <i>Tom Walker</i>	303
18	No Heroes in a Cycle of Violence: Collaborators, Perpetrators, and the Never-Ending Terror of the Arab–Israeli Conflict <i>Rachel S. Harris</i>	320

	<i>Contents</i>	ix
19	“Why Do They Hate Us?” Terrorists in American and British Fiction of the Mid-2000s <i>Michael C. Frank</i>	340
20	Terrorism in Theory <i>David Simpson</i>	361
	PART III APPLICATIONS: TERRORISM TODAY	375
21	Sympathy for the Devil: Evil, Taboo, and the Terrorist Figure in Literature <i>Richard Jackson</i>	377
22	War after War: Terrorism and Retaliation in Don DeLillo’s <i>Point Omega</i> <i>Linda S. Kauffman</i>	395
23	Conceptual Confusion: The Ambiguities of the War on Terror in Roy-Bhattacharya’s <i>The Watch</i> and O’Hagan’s <i>The Illuminations</i> <i>Tim Gauthier</i>	412
24	Terror, Testament, and Trial <i>Ian Ward</i>	432
25	Global Terror Global Literature <i>Daniel O’Gorman</i>	446
26	Recipient Unknown: Terrorism and the Other in Post-9/11 American Poetry <i>Ann Keniston</i>	469
27	Samson among the Terrorologists <i>Peter C. Herman</i>	486
	Afterword <i>Alex Houen</i>	505
	<i>Index</i>	515

Contributors

ROBERT APPELBAUM teaches at the University of Uppsala. The author of many books, including *Terrorism before the Letter: Mythography and Political Violence in England, Scotland and France 1559–1642* (2015), his most recent is *The Aesthetics of Violence: Art, Fiction, Drama, and Film*. In 2016 he was awarded a grant from the Swedish scientific research society, Vetenskapsrådet, to undertake a four-year project on “The Renaissance Discovery of Violence.”

LORENZO BOSI is an assistant professor at the Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS) and a research fellow within COSMOS. His main research interests are in political sociology and historical sociology, where his studies primarily focus on qualitative research of social movements and political violence. Bosi is interested in how and when controversial political actors change their strategies, and what impact these changes have.

DAVID COOK is an associate professor of religion at Rice University specializing in Islam. He has published *Studies in Muslim Apocalyptic* (2002), *Understanding Jihad* (2005), *Contemporary Muslim Apocalyptic Literature* (2005), and *Martyrdom in Islam* (2007). He also edited, with Olivia Alliston, *Understanding and Addressing Suicide Attacks* (2007). Cook is continuing to work on classical Muslim apocalyptic literature, translating the sources, such as Nu`aym b. Hammad al-Marwazi's *Kitab al-fitan*, as well as having recently become the coeditor for Edinburgh University Press' series on Islamic Apocalyptic and Eschatology (with Christian Lange of the University of Utrecht). He is also sponsoring research on Boko Haram's ideology, working with Ph.D. student Abdul Basit Kassem and Rice University Post-Graduate Fellow Michael Nwankpa on the group's texts and videos in order to translate them into English. He is currently working on a book on the theme of Islamic martyrdom for Cambridge University Press, and has published on the subject of martyrdom operations.

List of Contributors

xi

JOSEPH CRAWFORD is senior lecturer at Exeter University. He has published three books: *Raising Milton's Ghost* (2011), *Gothic Fiction and the Invention of Terrorism* (2013), and *The Twilight of the Gothic* (2014). His current research deals with inspiration and insanity in early nineteenth-century Britain.

REUVEN FIRESTONE is the Regenstein Professor in Medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and Affiliate Professor of Religion at the University of Southern California. Recipient of numerous research fellowships and university invitations, he is currently an Alexander von Humboldt research fellow in Berlin (summers, 2017–2019) and a Sigi Feigl visiting professor for Jewish Studies at the University of Zürich (2018). His most recent books are *Learned Ignorance: Intellectual Humility among Jews, Christians and Muslims* (2011) and *Holy War in Judaism: the Fall and Rise of a Controversial Idea* (2012).

MICHAEL C. FRANK is temporary professor of English Literature and Literary Theory at the University of Konstanz. The author of *The Cultural Imaginary of Terrorism in Public Discourse, Literature, and Film* (2017), he has co-edited *Literature and Terrorism: Comparative Perspectives* (with Eva Gruber, 2012) as well as a special issue of the *European Journal of English Studies* on Global Responses to the “War on Terror” (with Pavan Kumar Malreddy, forthcoming). From August 2018, he will hold the chair of Literatures in English of the 19th and 20th Centuries at the University of Zurich.

TIM GAUTHIER is currently serving as Director of the Multidisciplinary Studies and Social Science Studies programs in the Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). His research focuses on contemporary fiction and spans postcolonial concerns and artistic reactions to social and personal trauma experiences. In addition to peer-reviewed publications, he is the author of *Narrative Desire and Historical Reparations* – a study of A. S. Byatt, Ian McEwan, and Salman Rushdie (2006), and *9/11 Fiction, Empathy and Otherness* (2015).

NATHAN M. GREENFIELD was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. After taking his BA at Bard College, he moved to Canada to take his MA and PhD at McGill University in Montreal. For more than a decade he was the Canadian correspondent for the *Times Education Supplement* and is a regular contributor to the *Times Literary Supplement*. He is the author of five military histories of the Canadian forces in the First and Second World Wars. *The Damned: The Canadians at the Battle of Hong Kong and the POW Experience 1941–45* (2010) was shortlisted for the Governor General's

Award for Non-Fiction. His most recent book is *The Reckoning: Canadian Prisoners of War in the Great War* (2016).

RACHEL S. HARRIS is Associate Professor of Israeli Literature and Culture at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her books include *An Ideological Death: Suicide in Israeli Literature* (2014), *Warriors, Witches, Whores: Women in Israeli Cinema* (2017), and she is coeditor of *Narratives of Dissent: War in Contemporary Israeli Arts and Culture* (2011), with Ranen Omer-Sherman, and *Casting a Giant Shadow: Transnationalism in Israeli Cinema*, with Dan Chyutin (under review). Harris is also the editor of *Teaching the Arab Israeli Conflict in the College Classroom* (2018).

PETER C. HERMAN is Professor of English Literature at San Diego State University. His most recent books include *The New Milton Criticism* (2012), coedited with Elizabeth Sauer, *Destabilizing Milton: "Paradise Lost" and the Poetics of Incertitude* (2005), and *"Royal Poetrie": Monarchic Verse and the Political Imaginary of Early Modern England* (2010; Choice Outstanding Academic Title). His book, *Literature and Terrorism from the Gunpowder Plot to 9/11: Representing the Unspeakable*, is forthcoming in 2019.

ALEX HOUEN is a university senior lecturer in modern and contemporary literature in the Faculty of English at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge. He has written various chapters and articles on terrorism, war, and martyrdom, and is the author of *Terrorism and Modern Literature: from Joseph Conrad to Ciaran Carson* (2002), editor of *States of War since 9/11: Terrorism, Sovereignty, and the War on Terror* (2014), and coeditor of *Martyrdom and Terrorism: Pre-Modern to Contemporary Perspectives* (2014).

RICHARD JACKSON is Professor of Peace Studies and Director of the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago, New Zealand. He is the founding editor and editor-in-chief of the journal *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, which recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. He was one of the founding scholars of the sub-field of critical terrorism studies (CTS), and his most recent publications include *The Routledge Handbook of Critical Terrorism Studies* (2016) and *Confessions of a Terrorist* (2014), a research-based novel. His current research is focused on pacifism and nonviolence, and the development of nonviolent approaches to counterterrorism.

LINDA S. KAUFFMAN has written three books, including *Bad Girls and Sick Boys: Fantasies in Contemporary Art and Culture* (1998) and *Special Delivery: Epistolary Modes in Modern Fiction* (1992), and edited three more,

List of Contributors

xiii

including *American Feminist Thought at Century's End* (1993). Her essays on Don DeLillo have appeared in *Modern Fiction Studies*, *American Literary History*, and *Mao II, Underworld, and Falling Man*, ed. Stacey Olster (2011).

ANN KENISTON is a professor of English at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she has taught since 2002. She is the author of two monographs, including the Warren-Brooks Award-winning *Ghostly Figures: Memory and Belatedness in Postwar American Poetry* (Iowa, 2015), and coeditor with Jeffrey Gray of *The News from Poems: Essays on the 21st-Century American Poetry of Engagement* (Michigan, 2016). A 2017 visiting fellow at the ASU Institute for Humanities Research, she is at work on a new book on economics and twenty-first-century American poetry.

ANN LARABEE teaches at Michigan State University, and she has published two books, *Decade of Disaster* (2000), which examines cultural responses to technological disasters, from the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster to the Bhopal chemical leak, and *The Dynamite Fiend* (2005), a biography of Alexander "Sandy" Field, a Confederate agent who attempted to use a time bomb to blow up transatlantic passenger ships. In addition, she is the coeditor of the *Journal for the Study of Radicalism*.

RINI BHATTACHARYA MEHTA has edited two essay collections, *Indian Partition in Literature and Films: History, Politics, Aesthetics* (2014) and *Bollywood and Globalization: Indian Popular Cinema, Nation, and Diaspora* (2010) as well as essays in such journals as *Comparative American Studies*, *South Asia*, and *South Asia History and Culture*. She is an assistant professor at the University of Illinois.

ÈVE MORISI is Associate Professor of French at Oxford University and Fellow of St Hugh's College. Her research interests lie in the intersection of poetics, politics, and ethics from the 19th to the 21st century with a particular focus on the representations of extreme human violence. Her publications include *Albert Camus contre la peine de mort* (2011; preface by Robert Badinter), the first edited collection of Camus's complete writings on the death penalty, *Albert Camus, le souci des autres* (2013), and *Camus et l'éthique* (ed., 2014). She is currently co-editing a volume entitled *Death Sentences: Literature and State Killing* with Birte Christ (forthcoming in late 2018).

GILLIAN O'BRIEN is Reader in Modern Irish History at Liverpool John Moores University. She is the author of *Blood Runs Green: The Murder that*

Transfixed Gilded Age Chicago (2015) and has also published work on Anglo-Irish relations, newspaper and journalism history, the history of Dublin, and the history of Primary Education in Ireland.

DEAGLÁN Ó DONGHAILE, Senior Lecturer of English literature and cultural history at Liverpool John Moores University, has published numerous articles and book chapters on late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century British literature and terrorism as well as a book, *Blasted Literature: Victorian Political Fiction and the Shock of Modernism* (2011). His latest research is on Oscar Wilde's engagement with anarchism, socialism, and Irish Fenianism, and he is currently preparing a monograph entitled "Oscar Wilde and the Radical Politics of the Fin de Siècle."

DANIEL O'GORMAN is a lecturer in twentieth- and twenty-first-century literature at Oxford Brookes University. He is the author of *Fictions of the War on Terror: Difference and the Transnational 9/11 Novel* (2015), and has published articles on literature and terror in journals such as *Textual Practice*, *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* and *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*.

LINDSAY A. H. PARKER is a historian of modern France. Her book *Writing the Revolution: A French Woman's History in Letters* (2013) details the lived experience of the French Revolution of 1789 through analysis of personal correspondence. She is a lecturer of European history at San Diego State University.

LYNN PATYK is Associate Professor of Russian at Dartmouth University. Her research examines the way that modern terrorism, which arose in Russia in the mid-nineteenth century, was profoundly shaped by the Russian literary imagination. Her book *Written in Blood: Revolutionary Terrorism and Russian Literary Culture* (2017) argues that Russia's most celebrated writers and literary critics contributed to the ethos, pathos, and image of terrorism and the terrorist.

SIMON PRINCE teaches in the Department of History and American Studies at Canterbury University. He is particularly concerned with how relations between the local, national, and transnational shaped protest movements and the production of violence. Simon teaches modern British and European history. He has published two books, *Belfast and Derry in Revolt: A New History of the Start of the Troubles* (2011) and *Northern Ireland's '68: Civil Rights, Global Revolt and the Origins of the Troubles* (2007), as well as numerous essays.

List of Contributors

xv

TONY SHAW is a professor of contemporary history at the University of Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom. He specializes in the modern history of international propaganda. He is the author of five books, including *Cinematic Cold War: The American and Soviet Struggle for Hearts and Minds*, with Denise J. Youngblood (2010), and *Cinematic Terror: A Global History of Terrorism on Film* (2015). He is currently co-writing a history of the relationship between Hollywood and Israel.

DAVID SIMPSON is Distinguished Professor of English and G. B. Needham Chair at the University of California-Davis. Among other books, he has published *States of Terror: History, Theory, Literature* (2018).

TOM WALKER is the Ussher Assistant Professor in Irish Writing at Trinity College Dublin. He has published essays on various aspects of Irish literature and is the author of *Louis MacNeice and the Irish Poetry of His Time* (2015).

IAN WARD is Professor of Law at Newcastle University, United Kingdom. He has written extensively in related areas of law, literature, and history. Among his most recent publications are *Law and the Brontes* (2012) and *Sex, Crime and Literature in Victorian England* (2014). His *Writing the Victorian Constitution* will be published later this year.