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# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Religion and Violence

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## LONE WOLF RACE WARRIORS AND WHITE GENOCIDE

Mattias Gardell

*Uppsala University*

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# Lone Wolf Race Warriors and White Genocide

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**ABSTRACT:** When Brenton Tarrant live-streamed his massacre of fifty-one Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand, in March 2019, he was but one in a series of lone-acting white men committing violent crime to further the radical white nationalist aim to save the white race from extinction and establish a white ethnostate. From where did white nationalists get the notion of an ongoing white genocide? Why should “resistance” against a perceived invasion of “white” territory be launched by individual “lone wolves” massacring noncombatants they have no prior relation to? How could slaughtering children be construed as a heroic act that a perpetrator wants to broadcast to the world? Based on a unique collection of interviews with lone wolves, their victims, and their supporters, and a close reading of lone wolf, fascist, and radical nationalist material and communication, this Element provides solid answers to these and adjacent questions of importance.

**KEYWORDS:** lone wolf, fascism, political violence, radical nationalism, violent racism

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