

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Religion and Violence

edited by

James R. Lewis

Wuhan University

Margo Kitts

Hawai'i Pacific University

VIOLENCE AND THE SIKHS

Arvind-Pal S. Mandair

University of Michigan



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-108-72821-8 — Violence and the Sikhs
Arvind-Pal S. Mandair
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
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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/9781108728218

DOI: 10.1017/9781108610353

© Arvind-Pal S. Mandair 2022

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 February 2022

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

ISBN 978-1-108-72821-8 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.

Violence and the Sikhs

Elements in Religion and Violence

DOI: 10.1017/9781108610353
First published online: March 2022

Arvind-Pal S. Mandair
University of Michigan

Author for correspondence: Arvind-Pal S. Mandair, amandair@umich.edu

ABSTRACT: *Violence and the Sikhs* interrogates conventional typologies of violence and nonviolence in Sikhism by rethinking that religion's dominant narrative as a deviation from the ostensibly original pacifist-religious intentions and practices of its founders. This Element highlights competing logics of violence drawn from primary sources of Sikh literature, thereby complicating our understanding of the relationship between spirituality and violence, connecting it to issues of sovereignty and the relationship between Sikhism and the state during the five centuries of its history. By cultivating a nonoppositional understanding of violence and spirituality, this Element provides an innovative method for interpreting events of "religious violence." In doing so, it provides a novel perspective on familiar themes such as martyrdom, martial race theory, warfare, and (post)colonial conflicts in the Sikh context.

KEYWORDS: violence, nonviolence, Sikhism, spirituality, martyrdom, conflict

© Arvind-Pal S. Mandair 2022

ISBNs: 9781108728218 (PB), 9781108610353 (OC)

ISSNs: 2397-9496 (online), 2514-3786 (print)

Contents

1	Representing Violence	1
2	Guru Nānak's Sovereign Violence	23
3	Martyrdom, Militancy, and the Khālsā	39
4	“1984”: Clash of Sovereignities?	64
	References	82