

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Religion and Violence

edited by

James R. Lewis

University of Tromsø

Margo Kitts

Hawai'i Pacific University

RELIGIOUS TERRORISM

Heather S. Gregg

U.S. Army War College



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-73089-1 — Religious Terrorism
Heather Gregg
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/9781108730891

DOI: 10.1017/9781108583992

© Heather Gregg 2020

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 2020

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

ISBN 978-1-108-73089-1 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.

Religious Terrorism

Elements in Religion and Violence

DOI: 10.1017/9781108583992
First published online: July 2020

Heather S. Gregg

U.S. Army War College

Author for correspondence: Heather S. Gregg, heather.gregg@armywarcollege.edu

ABSTRACT: How can the world's religions, which propagate peace and love, promote violence and the killing of innocent civilians through terrorist acts? This volume aims to offer insights into this puzzle by providing a brief overview of debates on terrorism, a discussion on religion and the various resources it provides groups engaging in terrorist acts, four arguments for what causes religious terrorism, brief examples of religious terrorism across faith traditions, and a synopsis of deradicalization programs. This discussion shows that, when combined with certain political and social circumstances, religions provide powerful resources for justifying and motivating terrorist acts against civilians.

KEYWORDS: religion; terrorism; extremism; violence; deradicalization; counter-radicalization

© Heather S. Gregg 2020

ISBNs: 9781108730891 (PB), 9781108583992 (OC)

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

Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 What Is – and Is Not – Terrorism	5
3 Religion and Terrorism	10
4 Causes of Religious Terrorism	19
5 Examples of Religious Terrorism across Faith Traditions	29
6 Countering Religious Terrorism	62
Bibliography	75