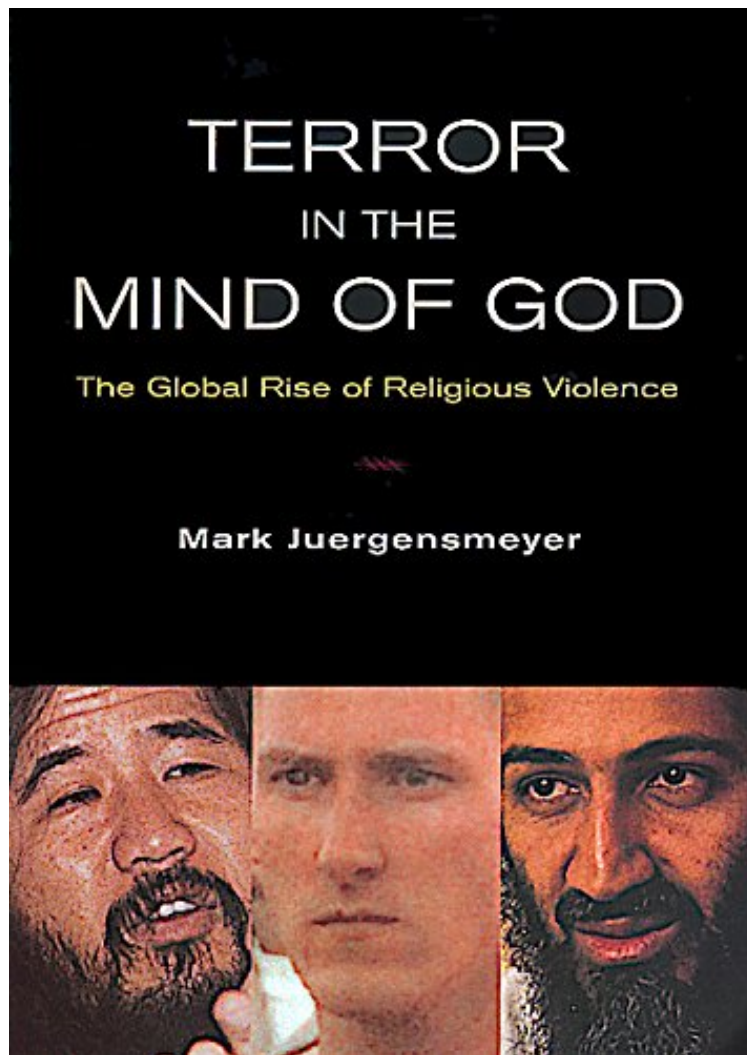


(Download pdf ebook) *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence* (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society)

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Mark Juergensmeyer

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Mark Juergensmeyer : Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence* (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enlightening and Informative By J. Randolph Juergensmeyer straddles religious traditions to find common threads of violence. Fundamentalist, overly-rigid/simplistic philosophical

reactions to technological and societal change bolster pathologically violent acts through dehumanization and demonizing of the secular and/or different. Much can be learned from this analysis. Great segment identifying Timothy McVey's right-wing, anti-government motivations for the Oklahoma City bombings in 1995. As a resident of Oklahoma, these ties were somehow white-washed and swept under the rug. Instead of focusing on the irrational fears and bigger societal movements that spawned his horrific action, Oklahomans tend to limit the lunacy to only he and Terry Nichols without greater attention to the separatist compound where he trained. Perhaps we also "run" from the truth with our memorial marathon. Moreover, Juergensmeyer's focus spans not only Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, but also (and surprisingly) Buddhism and Sikhism as well. No faith gets preferential treatment. A worthy read in a post-911 world for those looking for answers to avoid more senseless tragedy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... book for a course (required reading) and am so happy to have read it By Customer I bought this book for a course (required reading) and am so happy to have read it. It's a really great look at religiously-motivated "terror" from a wide set of religions. While you get some brief deep-dives on certain groups or ideologies, the book takes a wider approach and scans various religions across all parts of the world and their common uniting threat in inspiring and encouraging terrorism/[political] violence. Juergensmeyer does a fantastic job and I definitely recommend getting this on your book shelf asap. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Strongly recommended to anyone at any level! By wadp1 This is an excellent treatment of the subject by an author who has met personally (and continues to meet) many of the key actors on the global stage in this field! I therefore take his descriptions, opinions, and analyses very seriously! Very thoughtfully and interestingly written!

Beneath the histories of religious traditions--from biblical wars to crusading ventures and great acts of martyrdom--violence has lurked as a shadowy presence. Images of death have never been far from the heart of religion's power to stir the imagination. In this wide-ranging and erudite book, Mark Juergensmeyer asks one of the most important and perplexing questions of our age: Why do religious people commit violent acts in the name of their god, taking the lives of innocent victims and terrorizing entire populations? This, the first comparative study of religious terrorism, explores incidents such as the World Trade Center explosion, Hamas suicide bombings, the Tokyo subway nerve gas attack, and the killing of abortion clinic doctors in the United States. Incorporating personal interviews with World Trade Center bomber Mahmud Abouhalima, Christian Right activist Mike Bray, Hamas leaders Sheik Yassin and Abdul Aziz Rantisi, and Sikh political leader Simranjit Singh Mann, among others, Juergensmeyer takes us into the mindset of those who perpetrate and support violent acts. In the process, he helps us understand why these acts are often associated with religious causes and why they occur with such frequency at this moment in history. *Terror in the Mind of God* places these acts of violence in the context of global political and social changes, and posits them as attempts to empower the cultures of violence that support them. Juergensmeyer analyzes the economic, ideological, and gender-related dimensions of cultures that embrace a central sacred concept--cosmic war--and that employ religion to demonize their enemies. Juergensmeyer's narrative is engaging, incisive, and sweeping in scope. He convincingly shows that while, in many cases, religion supplies not only the ideology but also the motivation and organizational structure for the perpetrators of violent acts, it also carries with it the possibilities for peace. *Los Angeles Times Best Nonfiction Book of 2000*

From Publishers Weekly This dark, enthralling book not only documents the global rise of religious terrorism but seeks to understand the "odd attraction of religion and violence." Juergensmeyer bases his study on scholarly sources, media accounts and personal interviews with convicted terrorists. He exercises caution with the term "terrorist," preferring to emphasize the large religious community of supporters who make violent acts possible rather than the relatively small number who carry them out. Juergensmeyer identifies certain "cultures of violence" via case studies along the spectrum of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. Such religious communities often perceive themselves and their way of life as under attack. In Japan, for example, a new branch of "socially prophetic" Buddhists released toxic sarin gas in the Tokyo subway system in 1995, shattering their own nonviolent ethic and harming thousands because they had adopted millenarian prophecies about an imminent end to the world. Juergensmeyer is a powerful, skillful writer whose deeply empathic interviewing techniques allow readers to enter the minds of some of the late 20th century's most feared religious terrorists. Yet he is also a sensitive scholar who aptly dissects religious terrorism as a sociological phenomenon. Later chapters pay special attention to issues of "performance violence," enemy formation, martyrology, satanization and "images of cosmic confrontation." (Feb.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "...unsettling...but also a courageous... Juergensmeyer...insists on shedding light on the darker corners of human belief and human conduct." -- *Los Angeles Times* "A sensitive, comparative study of terrorist movements and the religious beliefs that motivate them." -- *Washington Post Book World* "An impressive new book." -- *San Francisco Chronicle* "Takes an academic approach to its subject, but readers outside the academy will find it quite accessible." -- *Ft. Worth Star-Telegram* "From the Inside Flap" By studying different 'cultures of violence' Mark Juergensmeyer has provided a plausible and imaginative interpretation of this phenomenon. He presents a lucid and compelling argument that does not belittle or demonize its subjects. This is an

important contribution to our knowledge of the relationship between religion and violence."Martha Crenshaw, editor of *Terrorism in Context* "In this important book Juergensmeyer argues that the violence associated with religion is not an aberration but comes from the fundamental structures of the belief system of all major religions. Juergensmeyer has achieved what very few scholars can do with much success, providing an insightful analysis of the function of religion in national and international life while moving in broad sweeps from culture to culture and continent to continent."Ainslie T. Embree, former cultural attach, United States Embassy, New Delhi"Half of the world's thirty most dangerous terrorist groups claim religion as their motivation. How can the word of God sanction acts of terror against human beings ? How can violence become a sacred duty ? These are the questions at the heart of Mark Juergensmeyer's calm, lucid, insightful and compassionate book. What sets it apart is Juergensmeyer's dedicated attempt to talk to former terrorists and work his way into their state of mind. His book shines light on the dark places from which terror springs." Michael Ignatieff, author of *The Warrior's Honour: Ethnic War and the Modern Conscience*