New & Recent Titles in
The Psychology of Terrorism & Religious Fundamentalism
2009
Substate terrorism now represents one of the gravest threats to human civilizations. As the frequency of interstate wars has declined since the end of WWII, terrible violence against innocent civilians is increasingly perpetrated by non-state groups with extreme agendas and virtually no restraints. Why do people become terrorists? Are terrorists crazy? Simply evil? Normal people driven to extremes? What social factors and tensions are most likely to provoke terrorist behaviors? And how can we use our rapidly growing understanding of the psychology of terrorism to anticipate coming attacks and protect the international community?

Psychology of Terrorism is a collection of the best classic and contemporary writings about the mind of the terrorist. Carefully selected by a panel of world-renowned authorities for value and readability, this collection provides the reader with deep knowledge and unique insights into the ideas, feelings, and social influences of modern terrorist groups. General readers who wish to understand this deadly phenomenon, students and scholars of human psychology or political science, and decision-makers facing the challenge of designing effective counterrorism policies will enjoy and profit from these essential readings and the inescapable conclusion they suggest: by ignoring the psychology of terrorism, Western nations have been making grave errors in the so-called war on terrorism. Understanding the deep roots of terrorist behaviors gives us tools that are absolutely vital to any effort in reducing this escalating threat.
Religious Fundamentalism
Global, Local and Personal

Peter Herriot
(retired), University of Surrey and Open University Business School, UK

“Peter Herriot has written a remarkably comprehensive study of fundamentalism around the world. His work is comprehensive, scholarly, yet wonderfully readable. Names and movements such as Al-Qaeda, Gush Emunim, Sayeed Qutb and Jack Straw and the nqab are presented in provocative case studies that illuminate fundamentalism from a global, local, and personal perspective.” - Ralph W. Hood, Jr., University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

“The beginning of the twenty-first century has witnessed the resurgence of fundamentalism in all faiths. As scholars of religion have sought to explore and explain the phenomenon with increasing acuity, a number of fresh and dynamic approaches to the study of fundamentalist beliefs and behaviour have emerged. Peter Herriot’s excellent and exemplary investigation is part of the new elite of scholarly endeavour that illuminates and enriches the study of fundamentalism. He engages with the phenomenon broadly, deeply and wisely, providing an accessible yet scholarly account of global religious fundamentalism. This is an outstanding book which makes a highly significant contribution to research and reflection in a growing and rich area of study.” - Revd. Canon Professor Martyn Percy, Principal, Ripon College, Oxford

How does a religious fundamentalist come to embrace a counter-cultural world view?

Fundamentalism can be analysed from a variety of perspectives. It is a type of belief system which enables individuals to make sense of their lives and provides them with an identity. It is a social phenomenon, in which strictly religious people act according to the norms, values, and beliefs of the group to which they belong. It is a cultural product, in the sense that different cultural settings result in different forms of fundamentalism. And it is a global phenomenon, in the obvious sense that it is to be found everywhere, and also because it is both a reaction against, and also a part of, the globalising modern world.

Religious Fundamentalism deals with all of these four levels of analysis, uniquely combining sociological and psychological perspectives, and relating them to each other. Each chapter is followed by a lengthy case study, and these range from a close textual analysis of George W. Bush’s second inaugural speech through to a treatment of Al-Qaeda as a global media event. This book provides a comprehensive social scientific perspective on a subject of immense contemporary significance, and should be of use both to university students and also to students of the contemporary world.

Contents

January 2007: 5½x8½: 144pp
Hb: 978-0-415-41676-4: $44.95
Pb: 978-0-415-41677-1: $26.95
www.psypress.com/herriot
60-day examination copy available

Religious Fundamentalism and Social Identity

Peter Herriot
(retired), University of Surrey and Open University Business School, UK

“Peter Herriot demonstrates how far one can come with linking theories about intergroup relations with religious fundamentalism. It is evident that these theories are highly relevant for and applicable to the phenomenon at hand. He has created a remarkable and original work.” - Bertjan Doosje, University of Amsterdam

“Religious Fundamentalism and Social Identity makes a permanent contribution to efforts to understand a phenomenon that is unlikely to disappear and one we must all learn to live with.” - Ralph W. Hood, Jr., University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

The attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on September 11th, 2001 brought the phenomenon of religious fundamentalism to the world’s attention. Sociological research has clearly demonstrated that fundamentalists are primarily reacting against modernity, and believe that they are fighting for the very survival of their faith against the secular enemy. But we understand very little about how and why people join fundamentalist movements and embrace a set of beliefs, values and norms of behaviour which are counter-cultural. This is essentially a question for social psychology, since it involves both social relations and individual selves.

Drawing on a broad theoretical perspective, social identity theory, Peter Herriot addresses two key questions: why do fundamentalists identify themselves as an in-group fighting against various out-groups? And how do the psychological needs for self-esteem and meaning motivate them? Case studies of Mohammed Atta, the leader of the 9/11 hijackers, and of the current controversy in the Anglican Church about gay priests and bishops, demonstrate how fruitfully this theory can be applied to fundamentalist conflicts. It also offers psychologically sensible ways of managing such conflicts, rather than treating fundamentalists as an enemy to be defeated.

Religious Fundamentalism and Social Identity is unique in applying social identity theory to fundamentalism, and rare in that it provides psychological (in addition to sociological) analyses of the phenomenon. It is a valuable resource for courses in social psychology which seek to demonstrate the applicability of social psychological theory to the real world.

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Also of Interest

The Psychology of Terrorism
John Horgan
Cass Series on Political Violence
June 2005: 6x9: 224pp
Hb: 978-0-7146-5262-7: $180.00
Pb: 978-0-7146-8239-6: $45.95
# New in 2008

**Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict**

*Pathways Toward Terrorism and Genocide*

**EDITOR**
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Clark McCauley, Bryn Mawr College, USA

*Pathways Toward Terrorism and Genocide*

*Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* is a pioneering interdisciplinary journal that publishes original papers and reviews that contribute to understanding and ameliorating conflicts between states and non-state challengers. Scholars from anthropology, communications, criminalology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology are invited to join in a new subculture that includes policy makers, analysts, and officers of police, military, and intelligence services, as well as officers of non-governmental organizations and foundations interested in peace and conflict. The form of contributions is open, and may include interview reports, case histories, survey research, experiments, text analyses, formal modelling, empirical or theoretical reviews, notes identifying new directions of research needed or in progress, and media reviews.

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# New in 2009

**Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression**

*Published in collaboration with the Society for Terrorism Research*

**EDITOR**
Justin Sinclair, Harvard Medical School, USA

Terrorism as a tactic has been used by political and ideological groups for thousands of years. *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression* aims to address the complex causation and effects of terrorist activity by bringing together timely, consistently scientifically and theoretically sound papers addressing terrorism from a behavioral science perspective (encompassing biological, evolutionary, developmental, ecological, personality, social, military, and neuroscience approaches to psychology). The journal is not intended as a forum for articles presenting policy or strategy analysis or those highly driven by opinion, but instead will publish empirical and theoretical papers, letters to the Editor and invited visionary pieces by leading experts in the field, which have a strong base in behavioral science research. The articles will also draw in insights from related disciplines, including anthropology, economics, history, political science, nonlinear dynamic systems, and sociology.

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