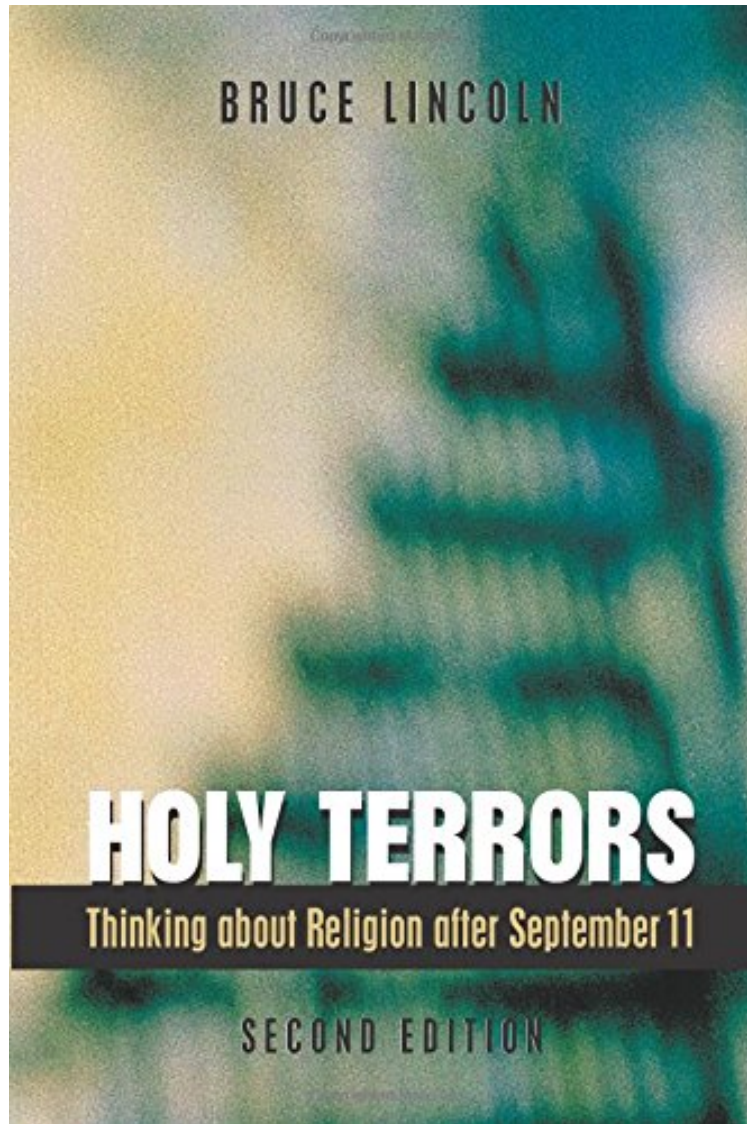


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# Holy Terrors: Thinking About Religion After September 11, 2nd Edition

*Bruce Lincoln*

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#400593 in Books Bruce Lincoln 2006-06-15 2006-06-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .70 x 6.00l, .54 #File Name: 0226482030190 pages Holy Terrors Thinking About Religion After September 11 | File size: 25.Mb

**Bruce Lincoln : Holy Terrors: Thinking About Religion After September 11, 2nd Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Holy Terrors: Thinking About Religion After September 11, 2nd Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bruce Lincoln successfully distinguishes between the important

aspects of religion ...By Wyatt Monroe McDanielBruce Lincoln successfully distinguishes between the important aspects of religion, and applies them succinctly. In particular, the first and last chapters, the first detailing religion more generally and the last detailing religion's role in violence, were the most interesting.11 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A tough slogBy DTC#This is a difficult book to read because it is suffused with academic references and needlessly complex phrases and jargon. For example, "... a more lattitudinarian position verging even upon antinomianism." (p.84), "... the Manchester school of social anthropology, and such French semiologists Roland Barthes." (p.78), "These are meant as Weberian ideal-types ..." (p.59). In short, the book targets an academic audience, IMO - not a lay audience.The author deconstructs speeches of George Bush and Osama bin Laden. The author tries to show that both Bush and bin Laden use the same essential religious themes and rhetorical devices to motivate and sway their target audiences ("Symmetric Dualisms"). IMO, this is sophistry; the same analytical technique could be applied to, say, Churchill and Hitler or Lincoln and Jefferson Davis.The primary redeeming qualities of the book are brief treatments of Sayyid Qutb and Mohammad Atta, and an even briefer treatment of the insanity following the French Revolution (e.g., "The Cult of Reason").For the layperson, instead of this book I recommend *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*, 3rd Edition (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society, Vol. 13) by Mark Juergensmeyer. It is far more accessible, and IMO, it provides a much more useful analysis and a broader survey. If you're looking to learn more about Sayyid Qutb and his influence on Islamic radicals, turn to *Terror and Liberalism* by Paul Berman.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. comments of aneducated lay personBy karlstoffersA great deal of the book requires a university education in theology to understand it. Otherwise a thoughtful presentation. II recommend it

It is tempting to regard the perpetrators of the September 11th terrorist attacks as evil incarnate. But their motives, as Bruce Lincoln's acclaimed *Holy Terrors* makes clear, were profoundly and intensely religious. Thus what we need after the events of 9/11, Lincoln argues, is greater clarity about what we take religion to be. *Holy Terrors* begins with a gripping dissection of the instruction manual given to each of the 9/11 hijackers. In their evocation of passages from the Quran, we learn how the terrorists justified acts of destruction and mass murder in the name of God, the most merciful, the most compassionate. Lincoln then offers a provocative comparison of President Bush's October 7, 2001 speech announcing U.S. military action in Afghanistan alongside the videotaped speech released by Osama bin Laden just a few hours later. As Lincoln authoritatively demonstrates, a close analysis of the rhetoric used by leaders as different as George W. Bush and Osama bin Laden as well as Mohamed Atta and even Jerry Falwell betrays startling similarities. These commonalities have considerable implications for our understanding of religion and its interrelationships with politics and culture in a postcolonial world, implications that Lincoln draws out with skill and sensitivity. With a chapter new to this edition, *Theses on Religion and Violence*, *Holy Terrors* remains one of the essential books on September 11 and a classic study on the character of religion.Modernity has ended twice: in its Marxist form in 1989 Berlin, and in its liberal form on September 11, 2001. In order to understand such major historical changes we need both large-scale and focused analyses a combination seldom to be found in one volume. But here Bruce Lincoln . . . has given us just such a mix of discrete and large-picture analysis.Stephen Healey, *Christian Century*From time to time there appears a work . . . that serves to focus the wide-ranging, often contentious discussion of religion's significance within broader cultural dynamics. Bruce Lincoln's *Holy Terrors* is one such text. . . . Anyone still struggling toward a more nuanced comprehension of 9/11 would do well to spend time with this book.Theodore Pulcini, *Middle East Journal*

"From time to time there appears a work... that serves to focus the wide-ranging, often contentious discussion of religion's significance within broader cultural dynamics. Bruce Lincoln's *Holy Terrors* is one such text.... Anyone still struggling toward a more nuanced comprehension of 9/11 would do well to spend time with this book." - Theodore Pulcini, *Middle East Journal* "Modernity has ended twice: in its Marxist form in 1989 Berlin, and in its liberal form on September 11, 2001. In order to understand such major historical changes we need both large-scale and focused analyses - a combination seldom to be found in one volume. But here Bruce Lincoln... has given us just such a mix of discrete and large-picture analysis." - Stephen Healey, *Christian Century*"From the Inside FlapIn the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, it is tempting to regard their perpetrators as evil incarnate. But their motives, as Bruce Lincoln shows in this timely offering, were profoundly and intensely religious. What we need, then, after September 11 is greater clarity about what we take religion to be. With rigor and incisiveness, *Holy Terrors* examines the implications of September 11 for our understanding of religion and how it interrelates with politics and culture.Lincoln begins with a gripping dissection of the instruction manual given to each of the hijackers. In their evocation of passages from the Quran, we learn how the terrorists justified acts of destruction and mass murder "in the name of God, the most merciful, the most compassionate." Lincoln then offers a provocative comparison of President Bush's October 7 speech announcing U.S. military action in Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden's videotape released hours later. Each speech, he argues, betrays telling contradictions. Bin Laden, for instance, conceded implicitly that Islam is not unitary, as his religious rhetoric would have it, but is torn by deep political divisions. And Bush, steering clear of

religious rhetoric for the sake of political unity, still reassured his constituents through coded allusions that American policy is firmly rooted in faith. Lincoln ultimately broadens his discussion further to consider the role of religion since September 11 and how it came to be involved with such fervent acts of political revolt. In the postcolonial world, he argues, religion is widely considered the most viable and effective instrument of rebellion against economic and social injustices. It is the institution through which unified communities ensure the integrity and continuity of their culture in the wake of globalization. Brimming with insights such as these, *Holy Terrors* will become one of the essential books on September 11 and a classic study on the character of religion.