



# Apocalypse Observed: Religious Movements and Violence in North America, Europe and Japan

By John R. Hall, Philip D. Schuyler, Sylvaine Trinh

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*Apocalypse Observed* is about religious violence. By analyzing five of the most notorious cults of recent years, the authors present a fascinating and revealing account of religious sects and conflict. Cults covered include:

- \* the apocalypse at Jonestown
- \* the Branch Davidians at Waco
- \* the violent path of Aum Shinrikyo
- \* the mystical apocalypse of the Solar Temple
- \* the mass suicide of Heaven's Gate.

Through comparative case studies and in-depth analysis, the authors show how religious violence can erupt not simply from the beliefs of the cult followers or the personalities of their leaders, but also from the way in which society responds to the cults in its midst.

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- Sales Rank: #2355715 in Books
- Published on: 2000-02-25
- Released on: 2000-01-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x .55" w x 8.50" l, .89 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 244 pages

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Review

**'Required reading for anyone perplexed by the persistence of millenarian thought'** - *Michael F. Brown, Williams College*

**'This book takes an original and challenging view of a number of extremely controversial new religious movements.'** - *Journal of Contemporary Religion*

About the Author

John R. Hall is Professor of sociology at the University of California, Davis. He has contributed to *Millennium, Messiahs and Mayhem* (Routledge 1998) and *Sociology of Religious Movements* (Routledge, 1998) and is the author of *Culture: Sociological Perspectives* (1997).

Philip Schuyler is lecturer in the department of music at the University of Maryland. Sylvaine Trinh is at Paris-Dauphine University in Paris.

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