









expertise is evolution, but this encounter never happened. Dawkins observed how evolution is blind, not unlike the blindness created by human myth and religion. Bringing together the work of Girard and Dawkins provides a lens for reading scripture. Salvation Story is written to challenge religious fundamentalists and atheists alike, as well as the rest of us--all those who realize that our current approaches to the Bible are woefully inadequate. This book digs into these ancient texts to discover what we have been hiding from regarding our own evolutionary inheritance, in order to discover the God who comes to save us from our own self-destruction.

In this powerful and timely book, one of the most admired and authoritative religious leaders of our time tackles the phenomenon of religious extremism and violence committed in the name of God. If religion is perceived as being part of the problem, Rabbi Sacks argues, then it must also form part of the solution. When religion becomes a zero-sum conceit--i.e., my religion is the only right path to God, therefore your religion is by definition wrong--and when individuals are motivated by what Rabbi Sacks calls "altruistic evil," violence between peoples of different beliefs appears to be the inevitable outcome. But through an exploration of the roots of violence and its relationship to religion, and employing groundbreaking biblical analysis and interpretation, Rabbi Sacks shows that religiously inspired violence has as its source misreadings of biblical texts at the heart of all three Abrahamic faiths. By looking anew at the book of Genesis, with its foundational stories of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Rabbi Sacks offers a radical rereading of many of the Bible's seminal stories of sibling rivalry: Cain and Abel, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers, Rachel and Leah. Here is an eloquent call for people of goodwill from all faiths and none to stand together, confront the religious extremism that threatens to destroy us all, and declare: Not in God's Name.

In 2014, more people died at the hands of IS, Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab and affiliated groups than died as a result of religious violence during a single year period since the beginning of the 1990s. While the consolidation of these groups in the Middle East, North and Central Africa is of substantial importance, religious violence is on the rise globally and comprises agents of multiple faiths. The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) has produced a report into the rising threat posed by religious violence to the global security environment. Barbarism and Religion: The Resurgence of Holy Violence looks at the key issues at stake in tackling this issue, to assess how policy-makers respond, given the vast, border-defying parameters, rapidly evolving mechanisms and complex ties with socio-political factors .

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