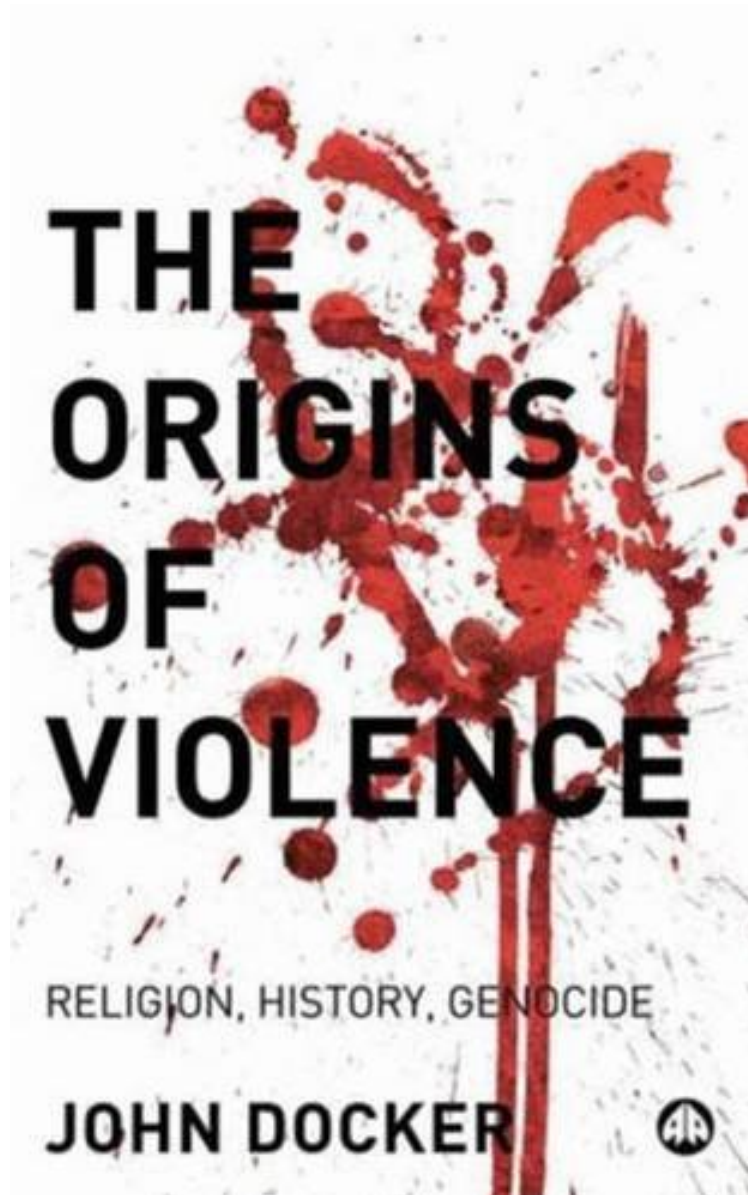


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The Origins of Violence: Religion, History and Genocide

John Docker

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John Docker : The Origins of Violence: Religion, History and Genocide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Origins of Violence: Religion, History and Genocide:

5 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Political campaign in guise of "academic scholarship" By DanaThe only good thing about this book is that it sums up previous ideas regarding genocide in ancient texts. But whenever

John Docker starts talking about his own ideas or conclusions, you can see straight off that the guy is aiming to be provocative and demagogical in that he always gives them to you in the same breath that he feeds you his political views. I'm sorry, but that's just not the way academic books are supposed to be written, most of the time it seems like he's running for a political office instead of researching the subject objectively. I am a grad student in Postmodern Literature with a BA in Ancient Literature, have read many books and articles about violence and religion, and can safely say by any standard that John Docker's book is in REALLY bad taste. He himself adds nothing to the research being done in this subject and only tries to use it as a platform to promote his own political views. If you want to read about violence in the bible, you might want to check out Regina Schwartz "The Curse of Cain". She writes about the same subject Docker claims to write about only she actually gives unique insights on the biblical texts and analyzes them in a thorough and scientific way that produces an exciting new interpretation of the texts and contributes to the on going research of preventing genocide and group violence in the modern day world. To sum it up: Do yourself a favor and DONT spend your money on this book. The topic sounds tempting, but there are other, more informative and relevant books out there on this subject that are much more worth the time and money.

From primatology to ancient Greece and Rome to the Bible, early-modern Europe and the Enlightenment, Docker's profound and original analyses provide a deeply unsettling narrative of the longevity of human practices of group violence. At the same time as *The Origins of Violence* dethrones regnant frameworks of genocide studies that stress the role of modernity or the state, and invites us to historicise genocide into the very *longue duree*, it challenges us to recognise the uncomfortable truth that genocidal tendencies remain tolerated, even celebrated, today - and not only in 'developing countries' - whenever they cohere with states' self-images. A Gandhian plea for non-violence that shockingly demonstrates the almost Sisyphean nature of the task. -- Dan Stone, Professor of Modern History, Royal Holloway University of London This is a most interesting and disturbing book. ... It displays a high level of scholarship in its examination of the ways in which classical historical and literary texts contain both a description and a moral critique of the ancient's world inter-group violence. ... It combines this analysis with a firm commitment to the modern, humanist values of non-violence and internationalism -- Sabby Sagall, former senior lecturer in Sociology at the University of East London

About the Author