Contents

List of abbreviations xi
Acknowledgments xiii

Introduction 1

PART I
Roots of the apocalyptic worldview 15
1 The original Book of Revelation 17
2 By this sign you will conquer: transformations of the Book of Revelation 34

PART II
The apocalyptic formula and terrorism 57
3 How not to make a terrorist: peaceful vs. radical apocalypticism 59
4 “One who swims in the sea does not fear rain”: Al Qaeda and Sunni radical apocalypticism 84
5 The case of the self-declared “Islamic State”: ISIS/ISIL 127
6 “The Lord God is a Man of War”: Christian Identity teaching and radical apocalyptic terrorism 143
7 The humanpox versus green fire: eco-terrorists and eco-activists 186
8 Bringing Armageddon: Aum Shinrikyo 214