



# Violent Origins: Walter Burkert, René Girard, and Jonathan Z. Smith on Ritual Killing and Cultural Formation

By Walter Burkert, René Girard, Jonathan Z. Smith

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Burkert, Girard, and Smith hold important and contradictory theories about the nature and origin of ritual sacrifice, and the role violence plays in religion and culture. These papers and conversations derive from a conference that pursued the possibility and utility of a general theory of religion and culture, especially one based on violence. The special value of this volume is the conversations as such?the real record of working scholars engaged with one another's theories, as they make and meet challenges, and move and maneuver. Girard and Burkert present different versions of the same conviction: that a single theory can account for ritual and its social function, a theory that posits original acts of group violence. Smith sharply questions both the possibility and the utility of such a general theory. Among the highlights of this stimulating interchange of ideas is a searching criticism of Girard's theory of generative scapegoating, which he answers with clarity and conviction, and a challenging of Burkert's theory of the origin of sacrifice in the hunt by Smith's argument, posed as a *jeu d'esprit*, that sacrifice originates with the domestication of animals.

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## **Violent Origins: Walter Burkert, René Girard, and Jonathan Z. Smith on Ritual Killing and Cultural Formation** By Walter Burkert, René Girard, Jonathan Z. Smith Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

'This fascinating book is the result of a conference that brought together, for the purpose of debate and dialogue, the authors of some of the most important, current theories about the origins and meaning of sacrifice ... This is a high-powered look at the topic by the scholars generating the approaches being taken today.' Choice

### **From the Back Cover**

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### **About the Author**

Walter Burkert is Professor Emeritus of Classical Philology at the University of Zurich. René Girard is Andrew B. Hammond Professor Emeritus of French Language, Literature, and Civilization at Stanford University.

## **Users Review**

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As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and advance. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you is you don't know what type you should start with. This Violent Origins: Walter Burkert, René Girard, and Jonathan Z. Smith on Ritual Killing and Cultural Formation is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

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The reason? Because this Violent Origins: Walter Burkert, René Girard, and Jonathan Z. Smith on Ritual Killing and Cultural Formation is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I have been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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