



# One God: The Political and Moral Philosophy of Western Civilization

*Ernesto Lorca*

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## **One God: The Political and Moral Philosophy of Western Civilization** Ernesto Lorca

Half of the world's most dangerous terrorist groups claim religion as their motivation. How can the word of God sanction acts of terror against human beings? How can violence become a sacred duty? This wide-ranging and insightful book asks one of the most important and perplexing questions of our age: Why do religious people commit violent acts in the name of their god, taking the lives of innocent victims and terrorizing entire populations? *One God* evaluates the political and moral theory contained within the sacred books of three great religions: that of the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims. It focuses on monotheism and its observable social consequences, particularly in pluralistic societies, and argues that the text supplies not only the ideology but also the motivation and organizational structure for the perpetrators of violent acts. By presenting excerpts from the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Koran, Lorca lets the text speak for itself. With clarity and vigor, he convincingly shows how and why a faith in one God can unite people in great or terrible undertakings: to convert others to faith and to struggle for justice or to unite them for crusades and bloody persecutions. This book is not an attempt to explain religion, nor does it propose to argue for or against the existence of God(s). A sweeping social history of religion, *One God* shows how the great monotheisms shaped the past and created the modern world. It is a major contribution to the sociology of religion that makes a forceful argument regarding the consequences of religious beliefs. **Dr. Ernesto Lorca** is a well-known medical doctor in Chile and author of a number of scientific studies. He teaches Ethics and Society and is a regularly invited lecturer to various American, Canadian and British universities.

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