



MARK JUERGENSMEYER

TERROR IN THE MIND OF GOD

THE GLOBAL RISE OF RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE

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IBRAHIM OLATUNDE UTHMAN*

Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

<ibrahimuthman@yahoo.com>

Mark Juergensmeyer (1940–), the author of *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*, is an American professor of religion, sociology and global studies at the University of California. Main areas of his academic interest include religious violence, conflict resolution and Asian religions. He has contributed several works in the field.¹

The focus of author's academic interest in the under-review work is to study the genesis of religious violence to unveil the "odd attraction of religion and violence" (p. 6), attempting in this endeavour, to comprehend the logic of religious violence, by understanding "the cultural contexts that produce these acts of violence" (p. 7) and answering the puzzle "why bad things are done by people who otherwise appear to be good—in case of religious terrorism, by pious people dedicated to a moral vision of the world" (p. 7).

* Ibrahim Olatunde Uthman, PhD (FIPMD), Senior Lecturer, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. He has contributed over 50 research papers and reviews in academic journals.

1. Mark Juergensmeyer's works include: *The New Cold War? Religious Nationalism Confronts the Secular State* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993); *Religion in Global Civil Society* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005); *The Oxford Handbook of Global Religion* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, as well as *Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008), one of the notable books of the year according to *New York Times*. He also co-edited *The Encyclopedia of Global Religions* (Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2011) and *The Encyclopedia of Global Studies* (Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, forthcoming).