

Armageddon

STUART A. WRIGHT

The University of Chicago Press • Chicago and London

in Waco

Critical

Perspectives

on the

Branch

Davidian

Conflict

Contents

Preface ix

Introduction

Another View of the Mt. Carmel Standoff STUART A. WRIGHT xiii

PART ONE SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 1 An Age of Wisdom, An Age of Foolishness The Davidians, Some Forerunners, and Our Age ROBERT S. FOGARTY 3
- 2 Davidians and Branch Davidians: 1929–1987 William L. Pitts, Jr. 20
- 3 The Davidian Tradition
 From Patronal Clan to Prophetic Movement
 DAVID G. BROMLEY AND EDWARD D. SILVER 43

PART TWO SOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF CONFLICT

4 Construction and Escalation of a Cult Threat Dissecting Moral Panic and Official Reaction to the Branch Davidians STUART A. WRIGHT 75

- 5 Self-Fulfilling Stereotypes, the Anticult Movement, and the Waco Confrontation JAMES R. LEWIS 95
- 6 "Babies Were Being Beaten" Exploring Child Abuse Allegations at Ranch Apocalypse CHRISTOPHER G. ELLISON AND JOHN P. BARTKOWSKI 111

PART THREE MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC OPINION

- 7 Manufacturing Consent about Koresh A Structural Analysis of the Role of Media in the Waco Tragedy JAMES T. RICHARDSON 153
- 8 Cops, News Copy, and Public Opinion Legitimacy and the Social Construction of Evil in Waco ANSON SHUPE AND JEFFREY K. HADDEN 177

PART FOUR APOCALYPTICISM, RELIGIOUS MARGINALITY, AND VIOLENCE

- 9 Public Narratives and the Apocalyptic Sect From Jonestown to Mt. Carmel JOHN R. HALL 205
- 10 Sects and Violence

Factors Enhancing the Volatility of Marginal Religious Movements THOMAS ROBBINS AND DICK ANTHONY 236

PART FIVE SCHOLARS, EXPERTS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 11 Religious Discourse and Failed Negotiations The Dynamics of Biblical Apocalypticism in Waco JAMES D. TABOR 263
- **12** Waco, Federal Law Enforcement, and Scholars of Religion NANCY T. AMMERMAN 282

PART SIX

 13 Breaching the "Wall of Separation"
 The Balance between Religious Freedom and Social Order RHYS H. WILLIAMS 299

vi

14 The Waco Tragedy

Constitutional Concerns and Policy Perspectives EDWARD MCGLYNN GAFFNEY, JR. 323

15 The Implosion of Mt. Carmel and Its Aftermath Is It All Over Yet? DEAN M. KELLEY 359

Appendix

Branch Davidians Who Died at Mt. Carmel 379

List of Contributors 383 Index 389