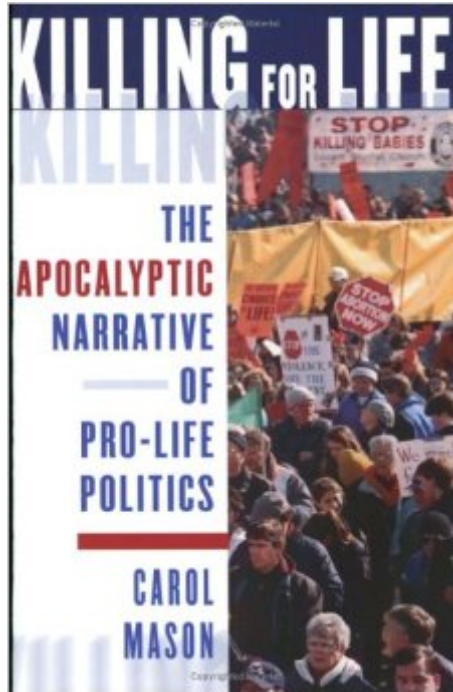


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Killing For Life: The Apocalyptic Narrative Of Pro-Life Politics



Synopsis

How can those who seek to protect the "right to life" defend assassination in the name of saving lives? Carol Mason investigates this seeming paradox by examining pro-life literature—both archival material and writings from the front lines of the conflict. Her analysis reveals the apocalyptic thread that is the ideological link between established anti-abortion organizations and the more shadowy pro-life terrorists who subject clinic workers to anthrax scares, bombs, and bullets. The portrayal of abortion as "America's Armageddon" began in the 1960s. In the 1970s, Mason says, Christian politics and the post-Vietnam paramilitary culture popularized the idea that legal abortion is a harbinger of apocalypse. By the 1990s, Mason asserts, even the movement's mainstream had taken up the call, narrating abortion as an apocalyptic battle between so-called Christian and anti-Christian forces. "Pro-life violence of the 1990s signaled a move away from protest and toward retribution," she writes. "Pro-life retribution is seen as a way to restore the order of God. In this light, the phenomenon of killing for 'life' is revealed not as an oxymoron, but as a logical consistency and a political manifestation of religious retribution." Mason's scrutiny of primary sources (direct mail, internal memoranda, personal letters, underground manuals, and pro-life films, magazines, and novels) draws attention to elements of pro-life millennialism. *Killing for Life* is a powerful indictment of pro-life ideology as a coherent, mass-produced narrative that does not merely condone violence, but anticipates it as part of "God's plan."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Killing for Life: The Apocalyptic Narrative of Pro Life Politics" by Carol Mason. The main reason for buying this book was to try and understand the mindset and rationale of the average pro lifer. The book was mentioned in another book I read about Eric Rudolph "Lone Wolf" by Maryanne Voller. It always seemed to me there was more going on in the pro life movement than just religious zealotry. There is, there is a large amount of racism involved in the movement (which I knew from my husband who read it somewhere years ago), as well as biblical apocalyptic beliefs, political extremism, extreme anti Semitic prejudice (Jewish), anti-government extremism, religious extremism running completely amok and a desire to control women in society. To make them subservient to men again in the biblical tradition, so they are no longer able to have control of their own body...men and government will control them and their reproductive health care. That can be clearly read between the lines without any large amount of words actually being written. I read as much of this book as I could possibly stomach, but I read a large portion of the book before it was over, in short spurts at a time. As much as I could take at one time. At least enough, I got the whole meaning minus some of the more offensive parts. But, I found out most of what I originally wanted to know. Just enough to be convinced forever that the pro life movement is as sick and twisted as I originally thought they were. I have no doubts the author is telling it like it is. So I am sure she knows what she is talking about and the book was well researched. There are things I have read and heard elsewhere. She is an authority on the subject and the writing is excellent. That is the reason I gave it such a high rating.

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