

Paul Cliteur

Theoterrorism v. Freedom of Speech

From Incident to Precedent

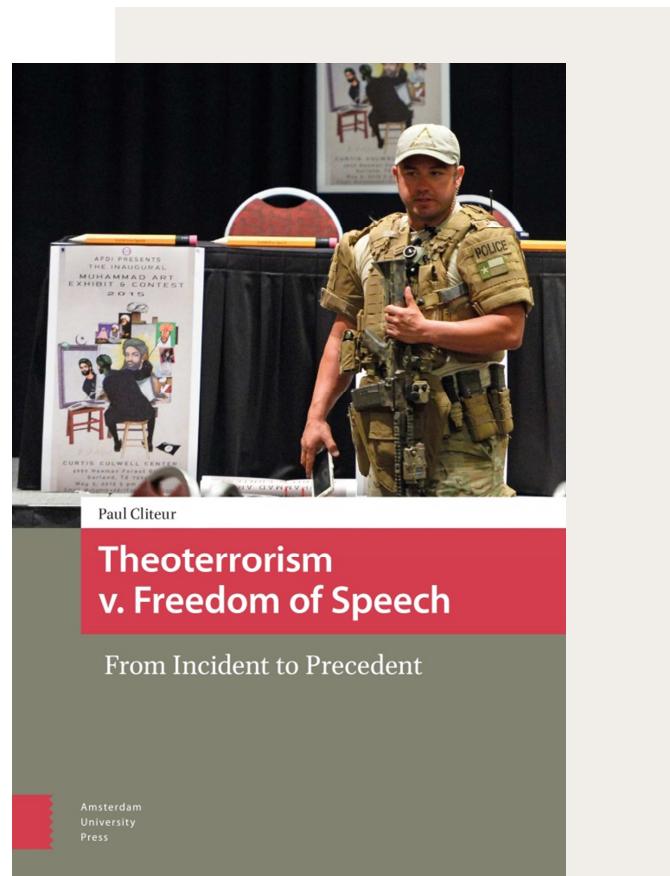
The Rushdie Affair, the Danish Cartoon Affair, the assault on Charlie Hebdo, and the earlier Carrell Affair, are examples of religious fanatics' extreme reactions to religious satire and criticism. Perpetrators of these actions consider themselves as true believers. This book aims to understand their motives by means of the concept of theoterrorism: terrorism grounded in religious zealotry.

"Paul Cliteur has written an important book. It's a disturbing and enlightening read. Disturbing because it unveils how Western democracies since the mid 80s have reacted with confusion and disorientation when freedom of expression has been under attack. Enlightening because Cliteur brilliantly deconstructs the cognitive dissonance among politicians, intellectuals and the media and provides us with the analytical tools to understand what's at stake. Cliteur lays bare the logic and consequences of our muted and incoherent response to threats of violence in the name of God. A book about freedom and safety for all of us."

Flemming Rose, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, Washington D.C.

"A topical and timely book, presented in a way that is accessible and even entertaining - though also worrying in the tendencies that it identifies."

Russell Blackford, senior Lecturer at the University of Newcastle



Paul Cliteur is professor of jurisprudence at the University of Leiden. He has been visiting professor at the University of California Hastings College of the Law, and at Ghent University. He is the author of *The Secular Outlook* (2010) and coeditor of *The Fall and Rise of Blasphemy Law* (2016).

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