



**William Morris and the Uses of Violence,
1856 - 1890**
Ingrid Hanson

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Description

Offers a new and challenging reading of William Morris's work, focusing on his representations of violence and arguing that the idea of regenerative battle is central to his literary and political vision.

'Specialists will value Hanson's astute, compelling close readings of transformative yet conflicted myths of violence in William Morris's poetry and prose; students of war, politics, gender and historiography in Victorian literature and culture will relish the challenging questions raised by this wide-ranging, richly contextualised and ethically conscious study.' —*Samantha Matthews, Senior Lecturer in Victorian Literature, University of Bristol*

William Morris and the Uses of Violence, 1856–1890 combines a close reading of Morris's work with historical and philosophical analysis in order to argue, contrary to prevailing critical opinion, that his writings demonstrate an enduring commitment to an ideal of violent battle. The work examines Morris's representations of violence in relation to the wider cultural preoccupations and political movements with which they intersect, including medievalism, Teutonism, and the visionary, fractured socialism of the 'fin de siècle'.

Readership: This work will be useful to academics, post- and undergraduate students with special interests in William Morris, the Victorian period, the body, violence and war, early socialist politics and the Pre-Raphaelites.

Contents

Acknowledgements; Introduction: Warriors Waiting for the Word; Chapter One: The Early Romances and the Transformative Touch of Violence; Chapter Two: Knightly Women and the Imagination of Battle in 'The Defence of Guenevere, and Other Poems'; Chapter Three: 'Sigurd the Volsung' and the Parameters of Manliness; Chapter Four: Crossing the River of Violence: The Germanic Antiwars and the Uncivilized Uses of Work and Play; Chapter Five: 'All for the Cause': Fellowship, Sacrifice and Fruitful War; Afterword: 'Hopeful Strife and Blameless Peace'; Notes; Bibliography; Index

About the Author

Ingrid Hanson is a lecturer in nineteenth-century literature at the University of Hull. Her research focuses on literary and cultural representations of violence, sacrifice and peace. She has published articles in the *Review of English Studies*, *English* and the *Journal of William Morris Studies* and is currently co-editing a collection of essays on the productive interrelations between poetry, images and politics in nineteenth-century Britain and Europe. Other interests include Victorian socialist journalism and late-Victorian women travel writers.

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