In a broad survey of the global scene, Marshall finds that persecution against Christians is massive, widespread, increasing, and underreported. In probing the patterns of this persecution, Marshall finds four principal sources: 1) communist regimes (China, Vietnam, Laos, North Korea, and Cuba); 2) South-Asian religious nationalism (India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan); 3) the Muslim-Majority world; and 4) authoritarian and national security states. Marshall also examines a fifth threat to Christian freedom: Western secularism. While milder than the other categories, restrictions and hostilities in a number of countries in the West are growing and cause for alarm. Marshall offers a penetrating theological explanation that unites the disparate sources of persecution. Because Christianity denies that the state is the ultimate arbiter of human life, it challenges all attempts to impose a single authority in state and society. Thus one of the major factors in contemporary persecution of Christians is the association of Christianity with freedom and pluralism.