

# Worlds in Conflict

**War and the Limits of Politics**

**Vivienne Jabri**

The MIT Press  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
London, England

The MIT Press  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139  
[mitpress.mit.edu](http://mitpress.mit.edu)

© 2025 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used to train artificial intelligence systems or reproduced in any form by any electronic or mechanical means (including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval) without permission in writing from the publisher.

The MIT Press would like to thank the anonymous peer reviewers who provided comments on drafts of this book. The generous work of academic experts is essential for establishing the authority and quality of our publications. We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of these otherwise uncredited readers.

This book was set in Deca Serif and Neue Haas Grotesk Text Pro by Westchester Publishing Services.

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Jabri, Vivienne, 1958– author

Title: Worlds in conflict : war and the limits of politics / Vivienne Jabri.

Other titles: War and the limits of politics

Description: Cambridge, Massachusetts : The MIT Press, [2025] | Series: Prisms: humanities and war | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2024056243 (print) | LCCN 2024056244 (ebook) | ISBN 9780262553728 pbk | ISBN 9780262385404 pdf | ISBN 9780262385411 epub

Subjects: LCSH: Politics and war | Violence—Philosophy | War and society

Classification: LCC JZ6385 .J34 2025 (print) | LCC JZ6385 (ebook)

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024056243>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024056244>

EU Authorised Representative: Easy Access System Europe, Mustamäe tee 50, 10621 Tallinn, Estonia | Email: [gpsr.requests@easproject.com](mailto:gpsr.requests@easproject.com)

## Contents

	Preface	vii
	Acknowledgments	ix
1	Introduction	1
2	War and the Making of Worlds in Conflict	29
3	Violence	61
4	People	89
5	Words	117
6	Things	143
7	Worlds in Conflict and the International: Conclusion	173
	Notes	185
	References	203
	Index	223