Buddhism and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka

SUNY series in Religious Studies Harold Coward, editor



BUDDHISM AND ETHNIC CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

Patrick Grant



Published by State University of New York Press, Albany

© 2009 State University of New York

All rights reserved

Printed in the United States of America

No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission. No part of this book may be stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means including electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior permission in writing of the publisher.

For information, contact State University of New York Press, Albany, NY www.sunypress.edu

Production by Ryan Morris Marketing by Michael Campochiaro

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Grant, Patrick, 1941-

Buddhism and ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka / Patrick Grant.

p. cm. — (SUNY series in religious studies)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-7914-9353-3 (hardcover: alk. paper) 1. Buddhist renewal—

Sri Lanka. 2. Nationalism—Religious aspects—Buddhism. 3. Ethnic conflict—

Sri Lanka. I. Title.

BQ374.G73 2009

294.3095493-dc22

2008017375

For Henry Summerfield And we, alone again under an oblivious sky, were quick to learn how our best construals of divinity, our *Do unto*, *Love*, *Don't kill*, could be easily garbled to canticles of vengeance and battle-prayers.

C. K. Williams, War