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Preface

Awkward as it is to express mathematically, there are really four books that belong to this trilogy. In addition to Naming the Powers, Unmasking the Powers, and this volume, there is also Violence and Nonviolence in South Africa: Jesus’ Third Way.' The book on South Africa provides what this one lacks: a practical case study of the relevance of nonviolent direct action applied to a concrete situation. Some of the abstractness of this study can be mitigated by a reading of that volume.

The completion of this project causes me a bit of grief. It has absorbed, off and on, almost three decades of my life, has led me into fascinating areas of study that I would not otherwise have explored, and has been the source of tremendous excitement. I hope some of the intellectual and spiritual adventure rubs off on the reader.

This volume was brought to completion during 1989-90, when I was honoured to be selected as a Peace Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. The views expressed do not reflect those of the Institute, nor has the Institute attempted in any way to censor anything in this book. It is important for an organization like USIP to be able to support, among other things, serious religious scholarship in a number of traditions that bears on peacemaking. I am grateful for the stimulation of colleagues there and at Oxford University, where part of the year was spent. Parts of this book were presented in workshops on Nonviolence in Chile, South Africa, Northern Ireland, East Germany, and South Korea.

This book is immeasurably strengthened by the many friends who were kind enough to read it. Special thanks are due to John Pairman Brown and Robert T. Fortna, who doubled as theological critics and volunteer copy editors—a task they performed splendidly on all three volumes of this series. Others critiqued all of the manuscript or parts of it: Anne Barstow, Brewster Beach, Gil Bailie, Andrew Canale, Richard Deats, Arthur Dewey, James W. Douglass, Tom Faw Driver, Riane Eisler, Charles Elliott, James Forbes, Jane Garrett, Maria Harris, John Helgoland, William R. Herzog II, Robert L. Holmes, Robert Jewett, June Keener-Wink, Bill Wylie Kellermann, Madeleine L'Engle, David Little, Thomas Moore, Larry Rasmussen, Robert Reber, Stephen Vemey, Barbara Wheeler, Rebecca Wink, and John Howard Yoder. Pomona Hallenbeck patiently and prolifically painted a whole series of covers from which to choose. I am grateful to Auburn Theological Seminary for its collegial spirit and continuing support. Thanks also to Marshall Johnson, David Lott, and the staff of Fortress Press, who saw the book through publication.

Questions for a Bible study on the Powers can be found in my Transforming Bible Study, 2nd ed. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990).
ENGAGING the POWERS

WINNER
★ Pax Christi Award, 1993
★ Academy of Parish Clergy Book of the Year, 1993
★ Midwest Book Achievement Award — Best Religious Book, 1993

"In this magnificent finale to this trilogy, Walter Wink engages the Powers with brilliant exegesis and a profoundly creative nonviolence, revealing the way to the Powers' and our own transformation. Wink on the Powers is a classic resource for activist and scholar alike."

— James W. Douglass
Ground Zero Community

"This book provides an intellectual, historical, and scriptural basis for the truth of Christian nonviolence. It will be an inspiration to many people, and particularly helpful to those who have come into nonviolence intuitively, or through a painful experience."

— Mairead (Corrigan) Maguire
Nobel Peace Laureate
Northern Ireland

"This is the most important and exciting theological work to emerge in a generation. It will have a profound effect on Christian thinking well into the next century."

— Charles Elliot
Cambridge University

"Wink at his best — provocative, insightful . . . and prodding with good exegesis, argument, and analysis."

— Larry L. Rasmussen
Union Theological Seminary, New York