

*Mapping Apologetics: Comparing Contemporary Approaches*  
**Available March 2015**  
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**Brian K. Morley** (PhD, Claremont University) is professor of philosophy and apologetics at the Master's College in Santa Clarita, California. He is the author of *God in the Shadows: Evil in God's World* and has been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society, the Evangelical Philosophical Society and the Society of Christian Philosophers. Morley and his wife Donna are founders of [faithandreasonforum.com](http://faithandreasonforum.com), a ministry to those who want an intelligent faith—to think more deeply about God and grow in their Christian faith.

## How Do We Decide What to Believe?

How do we answer life's most important question—the one on which everything else in life depends?

That is the problem posed by Brian K. Morley in his new book, *Mapping Apologetics: Comparing Contemporary Approaches*. Explaining a variety of views on their support for faith, Morely unpacks the theological and philosophical foundations and implications for each view, laying a foundation for informed and constructive dialogue.

"Dr. Morley is a careful scholar who does assiduous research and painstaking analysis," said Mark M. Hanna, professor of philosophy at Veritas Seminary and author of *Biblical Christianity: Truth or Delusion?* "His long teaching experience of apologetics shines through in this much-needed volume in a day when the diverse approaches to defending the Christian faith are often misunderstood and misrepresented. Morley has conscientiously checked the primary sources and, when possible, he has directly confirmed the accuracy of his accounts by consulting with the apologists whose views he describes. This volume will prove to be an invaluable resource for teachers, students and all Christians who want to enhance their understanding of recent developments in the field of apologetics."

Morley carefully looks at questions that lead to belief like:

- What kind of certainty can we have?
- Is there a difference between how I came to belief, why I personally now hold this belief, and how I will convince others?
- Is belief a conclusion we draw because of personal experiences or a hypothesis we can know is true because it does not contradict itself, it fits with all relevant facts, and it can be lived out?

Morley sees a great need for this exploration, through both his research and teaching. Over the centuries, Christians have offered different approaches to explaining or defending the Christian faith, a discipline known as apologetics. But it has not always been clear how different apologetic methods work, or what each approach has to offer.

"The subject of the book is the foundational question of apologetics, the matter of proof," said Morley. "The problem of evil relates partly to proof in that it shows how the existence of a loving and omnipotent God is consistent with pain and evil." This book seeks to move the conversation on worldviews and apologetics forward into the interface of faith and reason.

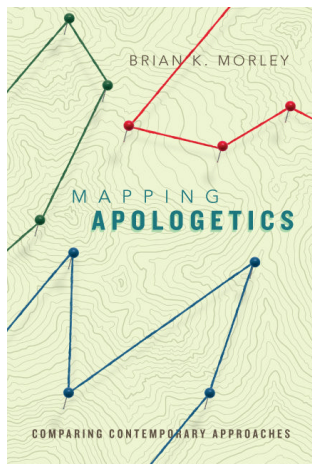
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*"Mapping Apologetics provides the most complete and best analysis to date of my overall apologetic approach."*

– **John Warwick**

**Montgomery**, distinguished research professor of philosophy, Concordia University, Wisconsin; director of the International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism and Human Rights, Strasbourg, France

## An Illustration on the Problem of Belief

On March 9, 1974, Japanese lieutenant Hiroo Onoda walked out of the jungle on a remote island in the Philippines, finally convinced that World War II was over – twenty-nine years after it had ended. Trained as an intelligence officer in guerilla warfare, he was told to survive at all costs. No matter what happened, his superiors would come for him.

Just a few months after his arrival in 1944, the allies overwhelmed Japanese defenses, and Hiroo's band of five hid deep in the jungle, surviving on what they could find. When the war ended many attempts were made to find and convince remaining soldiers to come out. Newspapers and even letters from relatives were left, which they found, along with leaflets. But how could the war have ended so quickly? And why were there spelling errors in the leaflets? Hiroo's own brother even came and attempted to speak to him over a loudspeaker. The band considered each piece of evidence, and always concluded that the enemy was trying to deceive them. One by one they died, the last one after twenty-seven years in hiding, leaving Hiroo alone.

Finally, a Japanese student tracked Hiroo down and befriended him. He could not surrender, Hiroo explained, until his commanding officer ordered him to do so. The student returned to Japan, and the government found his commander, now a bookseller, who returned in his tattered uniform and personally gave the order. Hiroo, still in his uniform, with sword on his side and his working rifle in his hand, was relieved of duty, and wept. Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos pardoned him for the approximately thirty people he had killed over the years, because the soldier had believed he was still at war. Hiroo returned to a world vastly changed, realizing that his beliefs had been completely wrong for nearly thirty years.

Hiroo illustrates the problem of belief, what to accept as evidence and as valid explanation, how to weigh assumptions, and much more. We make such complex decisions in our own lives, over both minor beliefs and major ones. And we all come to and hold the most crucial beliefs of our existence – our worldview – entailing whether to believe in a God, how to live, and what to do about an afterlife, if there is one.

– *Taken from the Introduction*

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