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In a globalized world, how can one bridge the private lives of individuals and public cultures or ways of life? How do we engage these diverse traditions in ways that allow us to live more fully and meaningfully?

Religion, in its local and global form, is perceived as a ‘problem’ to which intellectuals, policy-makers, cultural critics and economists direct their attention with either fascination or thinly veiled irritation. In the present ‘information age’, religion in its public manifestations reveals a dual possibility for both good and ill. A potential source of inspiration and democratic openness, it simultaneously presents a danger of degeneration and hence of closed societies. The ‘post-secular’ condition and its corresponding intellectual standing constitutes this ‘living-on’ of religion. While it escapes pre-established concepts and concepts take on new forms, in order to track its movements, new methods are needed. A sociology in post-secular is at once with the diminishing but enduring and – hence, perhaps, more resilient – existence of the religious.

The seventeen papers in this volume examine interrelationships between the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the ‘age of globalization’ on the one hand and the vision of society and structures of governance developed over millennia by religious traditions on the other. It examines if contemporary political theologies have practical relevance in aspects of policies and decision-making by individuals and governments. It explores the possibility that religion might give people a chance to lead better lives in the modern milieu.

The volume will be of great interest to students of religion, politics, sociology and philosophy, as well as the inter- ested general reader.

Edited by Hent de Vries and Lawrence E. Sullivan

Public Theologies

Political Theologies

Public Religions in a Post-secular World

Abridged Edition

Hent de Vries and Lawrence E. Sullivan

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