The Globalization of Ethics

Religious and Secular Perspectives

The Globalization of Ethics seeks to provide an alternative to post-9/11 pessimism about the ability of serious ethical dialogue to resolve disagreements and conflict across national, religious, and cultural differences. It begins by acknowledging the gravity of the problem: On our tightly interconnected planet, entire populations look for moral guidance to a variety of religious and cultural traditions, and these often stiffen, rather than soften, opposing moral perceptions. How, then, to set minimal standards for the treatment of persons while developing moral bases for coexistence and cooperation across different ethical traditions?

This volume argues for a tempered optimism in approaching these questions. Its distinguished contributors report on some of the most globally influential traditions of ethical thought – both religious traditions such as Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and Confucianism, and the secular ethics of international law, liberalism, and feminism – in order to identify the resources within each tradition for working toward consensus and accommodation among the ethical traditions that shape the contemporary world.

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The Globalization of Ethics

Religious and Secular Perspectives

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The Ethikon Institute

The Ethikon Institute, a nonprofit organization, is concerned with the social implications of ethical pluralism. Its dialogue-publication projects are designed to explore a diversity of moral outlooks, secular and religious, and to clarify areas of consensus and divergence among them. By encouraging a systematic exchange of ideas, the Institute aims to advance the prospects for agreement and to facilitate the peaceful accommodation of irreducible differences. The Ethikon Institute takes no position on issues that may divide its participants, serving not as an arbiter but as a neutral forum for the cooperative exploration of diverse and sometimes opposing views.
Acknowledgments

The Dominican Lay Scholars Community

The Dominican Lay Scholars Community is an ecumenical organization that promotes both interreligious contact and carefully structured dialogue between religious scholars and professional scholars in other intellectual disciplines. Among its other objectives, the DLSC encourages a systematic and impartial search for common intellectual ground among secular and religious outlooks on a wide range of important issues.