

GLOBALIZATION AND GRACE: A CHRISTIAN PUBLIC THEOLOGY FOR A GLOBAL FUTURE. By Max L. Stackhouse. *God and Globalization 4*. New York: Continuum, 2007. Pp. xxvii + 254. \$34.95.

In 1979 Karl Rahner interpreted Vatican II as moving the church into the third of three primary epochs: (1) the period of Jewish Christianity, (2) the period of Hellenism and European culture, and (3) the period of a world church. With the recent challenges of globalization, it is all the more urgent that we reflect on the contribution of the church in general and Christian theology in particular to the challenges of the modern world.

Stackhouse's *Globalization and Grace* significantly contributes to existing literature that examines how theology can help guide and direct the human community in this new era of complex and revolutionary global change. The fourth in a series edited by S. and sponsored by the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, N. J., the volume maps out contours of a Christian public theology that can offer a social ethic capable of renewing communities around the globe and thereby help reform contemporary dominant "powers." While rooted primarily in the Protestant tradition, it is ecumenical in tone and nicely shows how Christianity has shaped and can transform globalization. At the same time, S. brings this social reality and Christian doctrine into critical dialogue with major philosophies and world religions. His argument neither tacitly rejects the process of globalization nor uncritically embraces it, but rather seeks to understand the way in which God is guiding civilization toward new potential as a human family, even as civilization and the church struggle with their own weaknesses, failures, idolatries, and sins.

S.'s most important contribution is the rereading of central categories of Christian faith, such as creation, providence, and salvation, through the new lens of globalization. The book offers new wineskins of thought capable of holding this new social reality as we become increasingly more conscious of our interconnectedness and interdependence.