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The Emergence and Fragility of Religious Global Ethics

During the last decades there has emerged a need to rethink the secularization thesis owing to the fact that religions with their ethical claims have not faded out from the public sphere to the private. This is all the more relevant when we speak of the design of global ethics. The empirical fact of the public religions has prompted also philosophical attempts to reconcile secular liberalism with social reality. I will deal with some of these attempts in order to touch some philosophical problems of mainstream liberalism. I will then ask, whether the properly religious ethics offers a realistic corrective to the liberalist proposals. While the liberalists' answer is no, I will try to illustrate that the answer is rather both yes and no. The answer depends on how ambitious we are in designing our global ethical principles. One of my testing grounds for both inevitability and fragility of post-secular global ethics is the historical background of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948).