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HUMANITIES

Religion

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The following review appeared in the September 2014 issue of CHOICE:

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Peters, Rebecca Todd. **Solidarity ethics: transformation in a globalized world.** Fortress, 2014. 141p bibl index afp
ISBN 9781451465587 pbk, \$39.00

Attempting to construct a "liberation theology for the privileged," Peters (Elon Univ.) deploys a Christian feminist social ethic of solidarity. First-World consumers, she argues, can begin to counter systemic structures of injustice and overconsumption by building sympathy, responsibility, mutuality, and solidarity with people in the "two-thirds" (developing) world. Embodying solidarity means "thinking and acting in countercultural ways," and includes popular pragmatic actions such as buying fair trade products, socially responsible investing, and supporting worker co-ops and barter economies. Although Peters is by no means the first ethicist to call for critical self-examination of unearned power and privilege--or the "countercultural" thinking and acting that thwarts such complicity--her healthy redeployment of these categories vis-à-vis globalization is timely. However, the author's reliance on moral intuition as an ethical theory might not be sufficient to disentangle the intricate debate regarding the pros and cons of globalization. Because her embodied solidarity calls for a careful "examination of the history of colonialism, racism and empire," it is unfortunate that the book does not foreground postcolonial discourses more directly. Nor are pertinent voices from the two-thirds world anywhere to be discerned. Nonetheless, the privileged have their marching orders. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Professionals/practitioners and general readers. -- *P. K. Steinfeld, Buena Vista University*