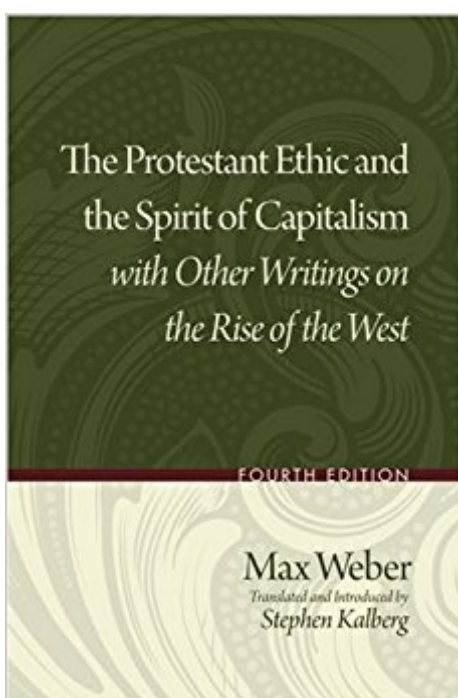


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The Protestant Ethic And The Spirit Of Capitalism With Other Writings On The Rise Of The West



Synopsis

For more than 100 years, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* has set the parameters for the debate over the origins of modern capitalism. Now more timely and thought-provoking than ever, this esteemed classic of twentieth-century social science examines the deep cultural "frame of mind" that influences work life to this day in northern America and Western Europe. Stephen Kalberg's internationally acclaimed translation captures the essence of Weber's style as well as the subtlety of his descriptions and causal arguments. Now, for the first time in one volume, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism with Other Writings on the Rise of the West* integrates Weber's exploration of the spirit of capitalism's origins with his larger project: a multi-causal analysis of the West's distinctiveness and its sources. Weber's texts present wide-ranging discussions on the Western city, state, forms of rulership and law, and modes of economic innovation. Moreover, in many selections Weber offers in-depth and insightful comparisons to China and India. Readings on the "economic ethics" of Confucianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Catholicism further illuminate the distinct qualities of the West's trajectory and its diverse causes. A separate section examines the long-range influence of the ascetic Protestant sects and churches on American society. To draw readers into the material, this engaging volume includes extended introductions by the editor, many new translations, a chronology of Weber's life, an expanded glossary and bibliography, and numerous clarifying endnotes. In addition, Kalberg addresses a variety of debates concerning the central elements of contemporary life. Ideal for courses in sociology, anthropology, political science, history, international relations, and economics, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism with Other Writings on the Rise of the West* is an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand the origins and endurance of the modern West.

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Customer Reviews

Stephen Kalberg is Associate Professor of Sociology at Boston University and an affiliate of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. He is the editor of *Max Weber: Readings and Commentary on Modernity* (2005) and author of *Max Weber's Comparative-Historical Sociology* (1994). He teaches courses in sociological theory and comparative political cultures.

I am pleasantly pleased by the condition of this book, and even more so, at the level of readability. I expected a dense sociological writing with dozens of subordinate clauses (there are some, but easily followed) and clusters of words driving me to the dictionary. I found Weber's book informative by reading in tandem from R.H. Tawney's "Religion and the rise of Capitalism." This review is from Weber's "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism with Other Writing on the Rise of the West." Translated by Stephen Kalberg, 4th.ed. The "Other Writings" also add to the understanding of Weber's thesis. One last comment: I found that reading Weber, Part I: The Problem, Part II Ethic of Ascetic Protestantism, and Protestant Sects in America--Western Rationalism and Tawney's "The Medieval Background & The Continental Reformers" will give a rich in depth (for a layman) understanding of the profound difference in Catholic and Protestant social teaching. As an aside, I think one may find a better understanding of Pope Francis's teaching. If one is looking for a serious and scholarly work that is easily read, this will fit the bill.

like a new good, very happy

good condition. needed it for school. interesting book to read.

see my other reviews....Weber is a God of social theory; brilliant, amazing, prolific. this book has a great selection of his work...a truly amazing academic and contributor to all branches of knowledge.

I admonish all reviewers to note the longevity and relative proximity of Weber's thesis before commenting. While I have a copy of Kalberg's translation, I must admit I have not read more than a

smattering, having read the Talcott Parsons' and Andreski's partial translations, the former being the first and basis of my understanding. I have reviewed the book under this edition in full. What I find useful in this edition is all the supplementary commentary, the excellent intro, and the supplementary translations. Although some disagree with me, Weber understands the emergence of modern capitalist society, with all its warts, better than anyone else. He considered PESC a minor work, and compared with Society and Economy, indeed it would seem that way. Albeit, in all other matters pertaining to the subject of capitalism as a social form, the one in which we live, he was remarkably prescient.

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