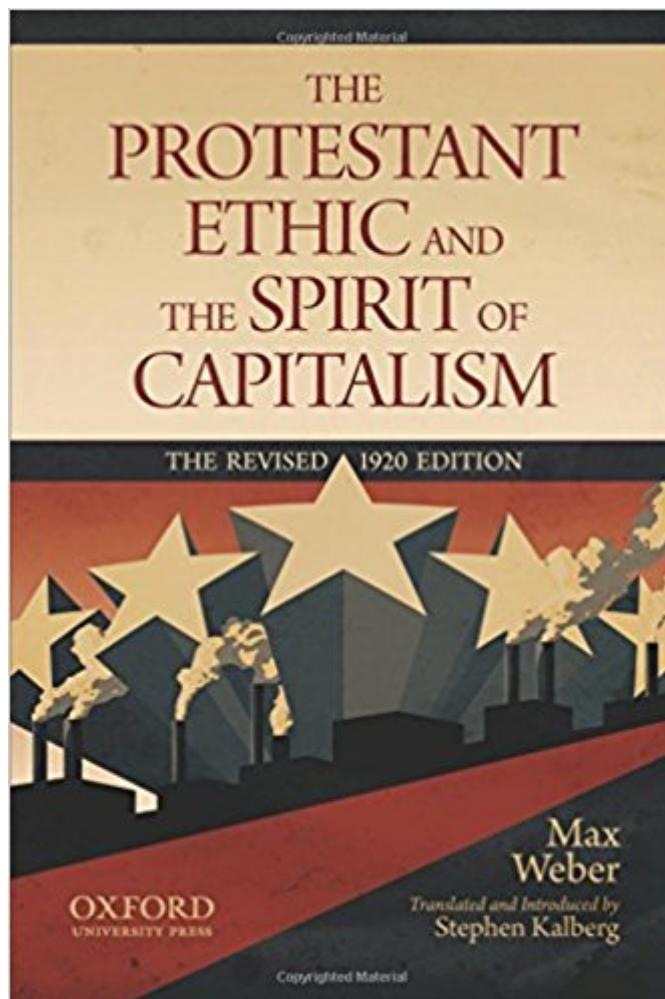


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# The Protestant Ethic And The Spirit Of Capitalism



## Synopsis

For more than 100 years, Max Weber's *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 existed at the birth of modern capitalism and to this day influences attitudes toward work in northern America and Western Europe. In this volume, Stephen Kalberg revises his internationally acclaimed translation--using shorter sentences and more lucid language--to make the work even more accessible to students and other readers. Capturing the essence of Weber's style as well as the subtlety of his descriptions and causal arguments, this is the only translation of the revised 1920 edition of *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* published since 1930. To draw readers into the material, this engaging volume includes extensive introductions by the editor, a chronology of Weber's life, a glossary, and numerous clarifying endnotes. Detailed commentaries discuss the controversies Weber addressed, explain his complex causal argument by reference to the general contours of his sociology, summarize the history of "the Protestant Ethic debate," and examine the significance of "the Protestant Sects" essays. Ideal for courses in sociology, anthropology, political science, history, international relations, economics, and cultural studies, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* is an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand the origins and endurance of the modern West.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Sociologists interested in Max Weber can count themselves fortunate these days with the recent appearance of the second revised edition of Stephen Kalberg's new translation of Weber's work, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. . . . Those teaching upper division undergraduate and graduate courses in social theory or the sociology of religion will find this volume an ideal introduction to Weber's work and to the continuing controversies surrounding his famous thesis. At \$14.95 in paper-bound edition, it is more than worth the price."-- Donald A. Nielsen, State University of New York Oneonta

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.

This Kindle book is the first time I have ever had to apply the adage "You get what you pay for." To be clear there are gobs of Kindle books that are free or cost \$0.99 and yet are some of the best value one could buy. Some free Kindle books would cost upwards of \$30 or even \$75 dollars if purchased as a paperback or hardcover. This, volume, however, looks as though it was somehow scanned with an OCR (optical character recognition) software package that was unable to recognize the characters. The result is that almost every page has at least two several-character typos. The typos are at first only disappointing to the diligent scholar, but by page 20 or so, they are unacceptable. Worse than setting one back \$0.99, the product is just a time waster. Persons reading this review (sorry, but the truth should prevail) would do better to skip it look elsewhere. I haven't found another title that answers this title's thesis or I would recommend it. If the scan had gone properly, I would probably be reading this title right now.

In Weber's classic work, he connects the Protestant Reformation with the rise in modern-day capitalism - the two, according to Weber, are essentially linked together. The Reformation introduced core elements upon which capitalism is built. For example the idea that the individual has rights associated with responsibility is a fundamental element of the Reformation - no longer is the Catholic Church solely responsible for the spiritual development of an individual, he must be responsible himself...every member a minister concept. Well, that's essential for the promulgation of capitalism as well - it's not the responsibility of the state, it's the responsibility of the individual to make a profit or lose capital in the process. The individual was kept stable and protected under the thumb of the Catholic Church, according to Weber, and the Reformation has freed the individual to take risks and stake their claim in life. Weber also notes that the Catholic Church promoted religious

piety, a quiet and subdued worship within the walls of the sanctuary while the Reformation released people to worship with zeal and passion in the fields and through his labors.

It's bootleg, simply put. The front cover looks photocopied, there's some street art on the back with red font...The page numbers are all messed up, the footnote numbers are way too big. It's just a mess. I don't know why would have this version as the first result when you search the book's title. Something they should change...

Good product and delivered on time.

Max Weber's thesis that the Protestant work-ethic helped give rise to the spirit of modern capitalism is well known, but how true is it? Weber goes into an impressive review of historical details on how Luther's concept of the calling became the Calvinist concept of labor to glorify God, and finally the Puritan concept that is applied to business as well as anything else. In short, the Protestant hard-work ethic, intended to be a sign of election and to glorify god, inadvertently (at least in part) gave birth to the spirit of capitalism, of sustained, planned, methodical profit-making. Though capitalism is no longer dependent upon religion for maintaining its ethos (we are all caught in the rat race), it is fascinating how Weber makes a compelling case that a once anti-materialist Protestant Christianity came to affirm the capitalist spirit by way of a hard-working ethic. Many of Weber's themes are persuasive, if also controversial. Weber has by no means isolated the final or full cause of the take-off of capitalism in modern times, but he has made a good case for one contributing factor. Would that his style of writing had been a bit more direct - Weber's insights are at least worth careful reading.

Essential reading for any sociology major. It's also essential reading for those looking to understand more of the social roots of capitalism.

This edition is terrible. There are misspelled words, missing words, typos, and random underlined terms that appear to have once been hyperlinks, suggesting that this is simply an essay taken off of the web. The citations are improperly formatted. There's no publisher information inside, just a warning against reproducing any section of the text (ironic, since it seems highly probable that this was itself copied from someone else's work). The cover is also super-pixelated. While the price is sort of low, I would recommend getting a different copy from a legitimate publisher - this one is an

embarrassment.

Very interesting

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