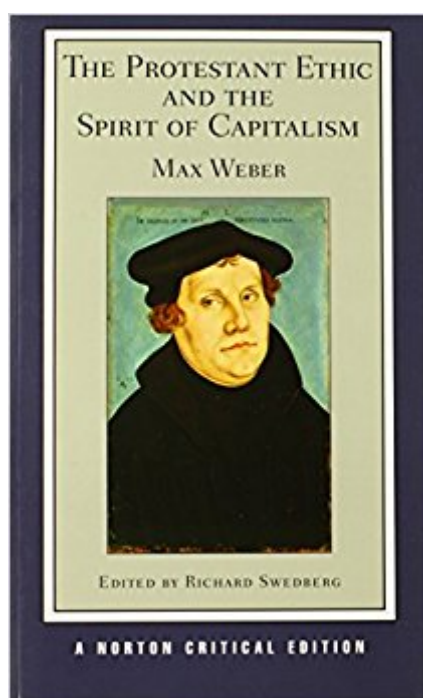


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# The Protestant Ethic And The Spirit Of Capitalism (Norton Critical Editions)



## Synopsis

The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism is Max Weber's most important work and, since its publication in 1904, has been widely considered the most important sociological study of the twentieth century. This landmark work sets out the relationship between Western religious ethos and the emergence and growth of capitalism; its thesis being that the values of hard work and industry at the core of ascetic Protestantism made it possible for modern rational capitalism to flourish. This Norton Critical Edition is based on the Talcott Parsons translation (1930). It is accompanied by the Translator's Note and explanatory annotations.

"Interpretations" includes five major scholarly essays on Weber and The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism by Ola Agevall, Richard F. Hamilton, Gudmund Hernes, Peter Breiner, and Richard Swedberg. A Chronology of Weber's life and work, a Selected Bibliography, and an Index are also included.

## Book Information

Series: Norton Critical Editions

Paperback: 312 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; Highlighted, Notations edition (November 19, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393930688

ISBN-13: 978-0393930689

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 111 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #169,176 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Textbooks > Business & Finance > Economics > Economic Theory #268 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Sociology #281 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Business & Professional Growth

## Customer Reviews

Max Weber was born in Erfurt, Germany in 1864 and died in Munich in 1920. His works are legion, but amongst the better known which translated into English, are Economy and Society, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, The City, and The Sociology of Religion. Richard Swedberg is Professor of Sociology at Cornell University. He is the author of Max Weber and the Idea of Economic Sociology and A Max Weber Dictionary. He is coeditor (with Neil Smelser) of The

Handbook of Economic Sociology and (with Mark Granovetter) of The Sociology of Economic Life.

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 reasonability 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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