Max Weber is widely regarded as one of the foundational thinkers of the twentieth century. But how did this reclusive German scholar manage to leave such an indelible mark on modern political and social thought? Max Weber in Politics and Social Thought is the first comprehensive account of Weber's impact on both German and American intellectuals. Drawing on a wide range of sources, Joshua Derman illuminates what Weber meant to contemporaries in the Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany, and analyzes why they reached for his concepts to articulate such widely divergent understandings of modern life. The book also accounts for the transformations that Weber’s concepts underwent at the hands of émigré and American scholars, and, in doing so, elucidates one of the major intellectual movements of the mid-twentieth century: the transatlantic migration of German thought.

Joshua Derman is Assistant Professor of World History at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He was a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and has received fellowships from the German Academic Exchange Service and the Josephine de Karman Fellowship Trust.
The books in this series will discuss the emergence of intellectual traditions and of related new disciplines. The procedures, aims, and vocabularies that were generated will be set in the context of the alternatives available within the contemporary frameworks of ideas and institutions. Through detailed studies of the evolution of such traditions, and their modification by different audiences, it is hoped that a new picture will form of the development of ideas in their concrete contexts. By this means, artificial distinctions between the history of philosophy, of the various sciences, of society and politics, and of literature may be seen to dissolve.

The series is published with the support of the Exxon Foundation.

_A list of books in the series can be found at the end of the volume._
MAX WEBER IN POLITICS AND SOCIAL THOUGHT

From Charisma to Canonization

JOSHUA DERMAN

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
For my mother and father
## Contents

*Acknowledgments*  
*Note on translations and list of abbreviations*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Max Weber and his circles</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Value freedom and polytheism</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The meaning of modern capitalism</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Skepticism and faith</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Max Weber’s sociologies</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Charismatic rulership</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Bibliography*  
*Index*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xiv</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>176</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>262</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgments

This project began as a Ph.D. dissertation in the Department of History at Princeton University, where I was extremely fortunate to have Anson Rabinbach as my advisor. He opened my eyes to Max Weber, whose “Vocation Lectures” I first studied in his seminar, and to intellectual history as a discipline. Andy's ability to break down the walls that separate political, cultural, and intellectual history has been a huge inspiration to me. His advice and support kept this project moving forward, and his good humor ensured that I didn’t lose sight of the forest for the trees. Harold James guided me through the labyrinths of modern German history and helped me understand the complex relationship between economy and society. Time and again I have drawn on his insights to write this book and to make sense of the world that lies beyond it. I received a remarkable education from my conversations with Anthony Grafton, whose supervision was all the more inspiring for its warmth and down-to-earth charm. The enthusiasm and acumen he brought to my project mean a great deal to me.

I cannot thank Peter Gordon enough for advising and mentoring this project through its many stages. He encouraged me not to shy away from the big questions and instilled in me the confidence to articulate my answers with conviction.

No graduate student could wish for a more stimulating and supportive environment than the Department of History at Princeton University. I profited immensely from seminars and conversations with Sheldon Garon, Eagle Glasheim, Michael Gordin, Dirk Hartog, Stephen Kotkin, Olga Litvak, Philip Nord, Daniel Rodgers, and Christine Stansell. I also want to thank Princeton faculty in other departments – Lionel Gossman, Michael Jennings, Jan-Werner Müller, Tamsin Shaw, and Arnd Wedemeyer – for helping me understand the endlessly fascinating world of German culture.
I am very grateful for the hospitality I received during my two years in Germany. Ernst Schulin and Wolfgang Hardtwig kindly offered to supervise me during my tenure as a fellow of the German Academic Exchange Service. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Edith Hanke of the Max-Weber-Arbeitsstelle at the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Munich. She encouraged me to pursue this project from its inception and placed a treasure trove of primary source material at my disposal. This book could not have been written without her help.

I would also like to thank Ganguolf Hübinger, Volker Neumann, and Rainer Wiehl for sharing their knowledge of Max Weber and German history with me.

The German Academic Exchange Service and the Josephine de Karman Foundation generously provided fellowships that enabled me to conduct my research and write my dissertation. I began revising the manuscript as a postdoctoral fellow in the Max Weber Program at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, where I learned how jurists, political scientists, and economists continue to wrestle with the implications of Weber’s ideas. I am very grateful to Ramon Marimon, Karin Tilmans, and the staff of the Max Weber Program for giving me this wonderful opportunity, and to Martin van Gelderen for his mentorship.

It has been a great privilege to be a faculty member of the Division of Humanities at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. I am grateful to James Lee, Billy So, Zongli Lu, and Kim-chong Chong for welcoming me to the department, taking such a keen interest in my professional development, and helping a Europeanist understand the world beyond his own geographic and disciplinary horizons. I also would like to thank the university’s librarians, who tracked down rare books, processed endless interlibrary loan requests, patiently awaited the receipt of books long overdue, and gladly shared the resources of their collections with me.

M. Rainer Lepsius, Georg Siebeck, and Peter Weber-Schäfer kindly granted me permission to examine Max and Marianne Weber’s papers. The handwriting of early-twentieth-century German intellectuals would have been illegible to me had I not taken a summer seminar in die alte deutsche Schrift sponsored by the German Historical Institute and led by Astrid Eckert. I am also grateful to the archivists and librarians of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich, the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, and the Bundesarchiv Koblenz, who helped me navigate archival collections and patiently answered my many questions.

I have been very lucky to meet so many scholars who took an interest in my project, and whose suggestions and encouragement improved
Acknowledgments

This book. I am very grateful to Martin Burke, David Chalcraft, Atina Grossmann, Jeffrey Herf, Richard King, Frank Mecklenburg, Samuel Moyn, Jerry Muller, Till van Rahden, Guenther Roth, Richard Wolin, and Jonathan Zatlin for welcoming me into the community of scholars.

The late Tony Judt invited me to a session of the Kandersteg Seminars that immeasurably broadened my understanding of intellectual history. His wide-ranging intellect and attentiveness to younger scholars made a deep impression on me.

Just weeks before graduating college, I had the good fortune to meet Tom Freudenheim, who invited me to come work for him at the Jewish Museum Berlin. I want to thank Tom, W. Michael Blumenthal, Cilly Kugelmann, Ken Gorbey, and the late Nigel Cox for kindling my interest in German history and inspiring me to pursue it as a career.

As a long-time admirer of Peter Baehr’s work, I am now doubly fortunate to count him as both a colleague and a friend. It has been an honor to exchange ideas with someone whose scholarship and principles I admire so greatly.

I am extremely grateful to Richard Fisher and Lucy Rhymer of Cambridge University Press for bringing this project to fruition and for their guidance along the way. The Press’s three anonymous readers generously offered constructive suggestions that helped me refine my arguments. I am very appreciative of the time they took to make this book a better one. I would also like to thank Emma Wildsmith and Robert Whitelock for their help in preparing the manuscript.

I am fortunate to have friends whose encouragement helped me finish this project, and whose wisdom helped me keep it in perspective. Many thanks go to André Anchuelo, Ben Ansell, David Art, Adam Brown, Emilie Conti, Mathias Delori, Martina Dillmann, Daniella Doron, Daniel Epstein, Guy Geltner, Jane Gingrich, Simona Grassi, Ben Harder, Alex Hawson, Sarah Hiron, Susan Kerr, Liisi Keedus, Kate Kingsley, Emily Levine, Simon Levis Sullam, Molly Lobberg, Naomi Lubrich, Martina Lüdicke, James Marsh, Lukas Martin, Paolo Masella, Tania Munz, David Nir, Cat Nisbett, Clara Oberle, Nick Popper, Timo Reinfrank, Fabian Rühle, Jonathan Schiffman, Roger Schoenman, Jeff Schwiegman, Will Slauter, Violet Soen, Scott Stedman, Yael Sternhell, Noah Strote, Aaron Tugendhaft, Klaus Veigel, Ina and Michael Wetzel, and Eric Yellin.

Helga Nagy introduced me to the German language, which is only one of the many gifts she has given me. I feel blessed to have received her
unconditional support in all my endeavors. My sister Sonya inspires me with her brilliance, compassion, and creativity.

My wife Faina has taken me around the world and brought me to the happiest place I could ever know – the home we have created together. In the writing of this book, as in all other things, her wisdom and support have been invaluable.

None of my work would have been possible without the advice and encouragement of my parents, Eva and Emanuel. The education and inspiration they have given me are simply too great for words to express. In addition to being ideal parents, they are also this book’s ideal readers. It is dedicated to them with love and gratitude.

Translations and abbreviations

In rendering Max Weber’s and Marianne Weber’s writings into English, I have consulted standard translations whenever possible, although I have often adapted them for the sake of clarity or fidelity to the German original. Citations from these works are followed by parenthetical reference to the corresponding English edition, where available. All italics are original, unless otherwise specified. All other translations, unless otherwise noted, are my own.


Note on translations and list of abbreviations


MWG  *Max Weber-Gesamtausgabe*. Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck), 1984–.


