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978-0-521-56753-4 - The Cambridge Companion to Weber

Edited by Stephen Turner

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Max Weber is indubitably one of the very greatest figures in the history of the social sciences, the source of seminal concepts like “the Protestant Ethic” and “charisma.” But, like that of his great forebears Adam Smith and Karl Marx, Weber’s work always resists easy categorization. Prominent as a founding father of sociology, Weber has been a major influence in the study of ancient history, religion, economics, law, and, more recently, cultural studies. This *Cambridge Companion* provides an authoritative introduction to the major facets of his thought, including several (like industrial psychology) which have hitherto been neglected. A very distinguished international team of contributors examines some of the major controversies that have erupted over Weber’s specialized work, and shows how the issues have developed since he wrote. The articles are both expository and critical, and demonstrate how our view of Weber has changed over the twentieth century.

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THE CAMBRIDGE
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EDITED BY
STEPHEN TURNER
University of South Florida



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CONTRIBUTORS

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SVEN ELIAESON is Lecturer in Government at the University of Karlstadt. His *Bilden av Max Weber* is the basic book on Weber in Swedish. His forthcoming survey of the controversy over Weber's methodological writings is to be published by Polity. He has written extensively on issues related to Weber's political writings.

JON ELSTER is Professor of Political Science at Columbia University. In addition to books on rationality and rational-choice theory (*Ulysses and the Sirens* [1979], *Sour Grapes* [1983], *Solomonic Judgements* [1989]), he has written on Leibniz, Marx, and Tocqueville. A book on emotions, *Alchemies of the Mind*, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

STANLEY L. ENGERMAN is John H. Munro Professor of Economics and History at the University of Rochester, and recently Pitt Professor at Cambridge University. Among his publications are: *Time on the Cross: the Economics of American Negro Slavery*, co-authored with Robert William Fogel (1974), and *The Cambridge Economic History of the United States*, co-edited with Robert E. Gallman (vol. I, 1996).

ALASTAIR HAMILTON is Professor of the History of Radical Reformation at the University of Amsterdam and the Dr. C. L. Thijssen-Schoute Professor of the History of Ideas at the University of Leiden. His publications include *The Family of Love* (1981); *William Bedwell the Arabist 1563–1632* (1985); *Heresy and Mysticism in Sixteenth-Century Spain* (1992); *Europe and the Arab World* (1994) and *The Apocryphal*

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Apocalypse: The Reception of the Second Book of Esdras 4 Ezra from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment (1999).

PETER LASSMAN teaches political theory at the University of Birmingham, England. He has recently co-edited *Max Weber: Political Writings* (1994) and *Max Weber's "Science as a Vocation"* (1989).

JOHN LOVE has taught Sociology at the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University. He is the author of *Antiquity and Capitalism: Max Weber and the Sociological Foundations of Roman Civilization* (1991) as well as a number of articles on the work of Max Weber. He is currently working on a book on the sociology of contemporary capitalism.

WILFRIED NIPPEL is Professor of Ancient History at the Humboldt-Universität Berlin. His books include *Mischverfassungstheorie und Verfassungsrealität in Antike und früher Neuzeit* (1980); and *Public Order in Ancient Rome* (1995). He is the editor of *Max Weber, Die Stadt – Max Weber Gesamtausgabe I/22, 5* (1999).

CHARLES J. REID, JR., is Research Associate in Law and History at Emory University School of Law. He has edited *Peace in a Nuclear Age: The Bishops' Pastoral Letter in Perspective* (1986) and has written on the development of rights in thirteenth-century canon law and the history of English land law.

GUENTHER ROTH, Graduate Professor of Sociology (retired from) Columbia University, edited and translated, with Claus Wittich, *Max Weber's "Economy and Society"* (1968) and, with Hartmut Lehmann, *Max Weber's "Protestant Ethic": Origins, Evidence, Contexts* (1993).

LAWRENCE A. SCAFF, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Wayne State University, has also taught at Pennsylvania State University, the University of Arizona and the University of Freiburg. In addition to many articles in social and political theory, his publications include *Fleeing the Iron Cage: Culture, Politics, and Modernity in the Thought of Max Weber* (1989).

WOLFGANG SCHLUCHTER is Professor of Sociology at the University of Heidelberg and Director of the Max Weber Center for Social and Cultural Studies at the University of Erfurt. His writings include: *Max Weber's Vision of History: Ethics and Methods* (together with Guenther Roth, 1979); *The Rise of Western Rationalism* (1981); *Rationalism, Religion, and Domination: A Weberian Perspective* (1989); *Paradoxes of Modernity* (1996).

ALAN SICA is Director of the Social Thought Program and Professor of Sociology at Pennsylvania State University. He edited the ASA journal, *Sociological Theory*, for five years and is the author of

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Weber, Irrationality, and Social Order. He edited *Ideologies and The Corruption of Thought* (essays by Joseph Gabel), and *What Is Social Theory? The Philosophical Debates* (1998), and edited and introduced a book of essays on Weber by Paul Honigsheim (Transaction). His *Max Weber and the New Century* (Blackwell) will appear shortly.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A great many people contributed to this volume, often in small ways. In several instances the help consisted of advice about potential contributors given generously and honestly by important and busy scholars for whom I was merely a voice on a telephone. The hospitality of the international community of letters, whose origins are usually associated with the Huguenot diaspora of the seventeenth century, still survives. Perhaps Weber, himself a distant product of this diaspora, would have appreciated its continued workings. Producing a book today requires rather different skills from those of the seventeenth century. Eileen Kahl, my research assistant, did the editing of the details in this volume, and there were a large number of details indeed. The Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences supported me for some of the editing, for which I am very grateful. The volume goes into some uncharted waters: I especially thank those who stayed on board.

CHRONOLOGY OF WEBER'S LIFE

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| April 21, 1864 | Born in Erfurt, Thuringia |
| 1866 | Ill with meningitis |
| 1871 | Foundation of the Second German Empire |
| 1870–1872 | Attends private Döbbelin school in Berlin |
| 1872 | Begins studies at Königliche Kaiserin-Augusta-Gymnasium in Charlottenburg |
| 1872 | Start of the <i>Kulturkampf</i> |
| 1882 | Studies at the University of Heidelberg: law, economics, history, philosophy, some theology |
| 1883 | Moves to Strasbourg to perform one year of National Service in the Army and studies at Strasbourg University; comes under the influence of his uncle Hermann Baumgarten |
| 1884 | Studies at Berlin University, including <i>Staatswissenschaft</i> (theory of the state), with Levin Goldschmidt and August Meitzen |
| 1886 | Takes the Bar exam; returns to his parents' house in Charlottenburg; begins work in the State Law and Agrarian History Faculty at Berlin University |
| 1888 | Doctoral student under Levin Goldschmidt; law clerk at the Royal District Court of Charlottenburg; third year of National Service; joins the <i>Verein für Sozialpolitik</i> (Social Policy Association) |
| 1889 | Graduates <i>magna cum laude</i> under Goldschmidt and Gneist with dissertation "Development of the Principle of Joint Liability and the Separate Fund in the Public Trading Company from the Household and Trade Communities in the Italian Cities" |
| 1890 | Dismissal of Bismarck |
| 1891 | <i>Habilitation</i> (teaching qualification dissertation) under |

CHRONOLOGY OF WEBER'S LIFE

- August Meitzen, "Roman Agrarian History and its Importance for State and Civil Law"
- 1891–1892 Concludes inquiry into "The Conditions of the Agricultural Workers in East Elbian Regions of Germany," which brings academic recognition
- 1892 Extraordinary Professorship in Commercial and German Law at Berlin University
- 1893 Professor in Political Economy, University of Freiburg; marries Marianne Schnitger, his father's great-niece; commissioned by the *Kongress* to compile a second inquiry into the situation of German agricultural workers; joins the *Alldeutscher-Verband* (Pan-German League)
- 1894 Moves to Freiburg as Professor of Economics
- 1895 Gives inaugural academic lecture: "The National State and Economic Policy"
- 1896 Accepts Chair in Economics, University of Heidelberg
- 1897–1903 Period of mental illness beginning with the death of his father in 1897
- 1902 Resumes reading in art history, philosophy, and sociology; in intensive reading on the history, constitution, and economy of monasteries comes across the theme of "rationality," particularly in economic life
- 1903 Resigns teaching post at Heidelberg and becomes honorary professor
- 1904 Travels to United States to attend a scientific world conference at the World Exhibition in St. Louis; in the United States from August to December and at Columbia University library collects material for his work on *The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism*; with Edgar Jaffé and Werner Sombart takes editorial control of the *Archiv für Sozialwissenschaften und Sozialpolitik* (Archive of Social Sciences and Social Policy); publishes "Objectivity in Social Science and Social Policy" introducing his concepts of "value freedom," "value relationship," and "ideal-type"
- 1905 Revolution in Russia
- 1905–1906 Publishes the *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* in the *Archiv*
- 1906 Publishes "On the Situation of Constitutional Democracy in Russia"
- 1907–1908 Travels in Italy, France, and the Netherlands; develops interest in industrial work; publishes the *Agrarian Soci-*

CHRONOLOGY OF WEBER'S LIFE

- ology of Ancient Civilizations*; publisher Paul Siebeck gives him the task of continuing *Schönberg'sches Handbuch der Politische Ökonomie* and editorial control of the *Grundriss der Sozialökonomie*, which generates the texts eventually published as *Economy and Society*
- 1908 Participates in the conference of the National Liberal Party
- 1909 Co-founds *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie* (German Society for Sociology); identifies himself as a sociologist; at Vienna conference of the *Verein* speaks against Schmoller's support of bureaucratic social patronage of the workforce; suffers another relapse
- 1910 Speaks against racist ideology at the first conference of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie*
- 1911 Works on sociology of religion dealing with China, Japan, Judaism, and Islam; writes second part of *Economy and Society*
- 1912 Delivers a critical statement taking issue with the concept of "nation" at the Berlin sociology convention; resigns from the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie* over disputes on the question of freedom from value judgment
- 1913 Adds "Conceptual Exposition" to *Economy and Society*; publishes "On Some Categories of Interpretive Sociology"; in Italy spends time with nature children, vegetarians, and other modern sects living under the influence of the ideas of Otto Gross and Erich Mühsam, an experience which softens his rigorous asceticism
- 1914 World War I begins
- 1914–1915 Serves as reserve officer and takes over functions of disciplinary officer on the Reserve Military Hospitals Commission; sets up and manages nine military hospitals
- 1915 Publishes first part of *The Economic Ethic of the World Religions*; takes position against the German policy of annexation
- 1916 Travels to Vienna and Berlin as a journalist for *Frankfurter Zeitung*; publishes *Religion of China: Confucianism and Taoism* and *The Religion of India: The Sociology of Hinduism and Buddhism*
- 1917 Publishes *Ancient Judaism*; gives lecture "Science as a Vocation"; publishes newspaper articles on a federal republican constitution for Germany. Russian revolution

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- 1918 Accepts the Chair of Political Economy at the University of Vienna; joins German Democratic Party supporting constitutional monarchy. Lectures on “A Positive Critique of the Materialist Conception of History”
- 1919 Gives lecture “Politics as a Vocation”; nominated as a candidate for the National Assembly, but not elected; considered for Secretary of State for the Interior; serves on an unofficial committee advising the Ministry of the Interior on reform of the constitution; appointed to the official peace delegation to respond to the Allies’ memorandum regarding Germany’s war guilt; moves to Munich to take Chair in Economics; his mother dies
- June 14, 1920 Dies in Munich

ABBREVIATIONS

- AJ *Ancient Judaism*, trans. and ed. Hans H. Gerth and Don Martindale, Glencoe, IL: Free Press, 1952.
- ASAC *The Agrarian Sociology of Ancient Civilizations*, trans. R. I. Frank, London: New Left Books; Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Humanities Press, 1976 [contains *Agrarverhältnisse im Altertum* and *Die sozialen Gründe des Untergangs der antiken Kultur*].
- C *The City*, trans. and ed. Don Martindale and Gertrud Neuwirth, New York: Free Press, 1966 [1958].
- CS *Critique of Stammer*, trans. Guy Oakes, New York: Free Press, 1977 [1907].
- E&S *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, 3 vols., ed. Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1978 [1968] [continuous pagination].
- FMW *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, trans. H. H. Gerth and C. W. Mills, New York: Oxford University Press, 1946.
- GARS *Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Religionssoziologie*, 3 vols. (1920/1), reprinted Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck), 1988 [1920].
- GAW *Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Wissenschaftslehre*, 4th edn., ed. J. Winckelmann, reprinted Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck), 1988 [1922].
- GASS *Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Soziologie und Sozialpolitik*, ed. Marianne Weber, Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck), 1924.
- GEH *General Economic History*, New York: Collier Books, 1961 [1927], New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 1981.
- GPS *Gesammelte Politische Schriften*, Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck), 1971.
- MSS *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*, trans. E. Shils and H. Finch, New York: Free Press, 1949.

ABBREVIATIONS

- MWG *Max Weber Gesamtausgabe*, Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck).
- PE *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, trans. Talcott Parsons, New York: Scribner's, 1958.
- PW *Political Writings*, ed. Peter Lassman and Ronald Speirs, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- R&K *Roscher and Knies*, New York: The Free Press, 1975.
- R&SFM *The Rational and Social Foundations of Music*, trans. D. Martindale *et al.*, Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois Press, 1958.
- RC *Religion of China: Confucianism and Taoism*, New York: Free Press, 1964.
- RI *The Religion of India: The Sociology of Hinduism and Buddhism*, New York: Free Press, 1958.
- RR *The Russian Revolutions*, trans. G. Wells and P. Baehr, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1995.
- SWG *Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte*, reprinted Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck), [1924] 1988.
- TSEO *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*, ed. Talcott Parsons, Glencoe, IL: The Free Press, 1947.
- WL *Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Wissenschaftslehre*, 7th edn., ed. J. Winckelmann, reprinted Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck), 1988 [1922].
- WuG *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft. Grundriss der verstehenden Soziologie*, 5th edn., ed. J. Winckelmann, Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck), 1976.