

**Max Weber's *Economic Ethic of the
World Religions***

This book brings together for the first time in English internationally recognized area specialists who seek to identify what is “living” and what is “dead” in the great German social scientist Max Weber’s analyses of China, India and ancient Israel found in his massive, unfinished *Economic Ethic of the World Religions*. In so doing, the volume offers a powerful new perspective in the current debate concerning the timing of and deeper roots of the “Great Divergence” – and more recent convergence – in the economic and political development of the West on the one hand and the great civilizations of Asia on the other. At the same time, this volume also rebalances our understanding of Weber’s entire intellectual output by returning *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* to its proper place alongside *The Economic Ethic of the World Religions* and establishing that work as the equal of the similarly unfinished *Economy and Society*.

Thomas C. Ertman is Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the College Core Curriculum at New York University. He is the author of the award-winning *Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* and is working on a successor volume entitled *Taming the Leviathan: Liberalization and Democratization in Western Europe since the French Revolution*.

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An Analysis

THOMAS C. ERTMAN

New York University



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Contributors

Timothy Brook (University of British Columbia)
William G. Dever (Lycoming College, Pennsylvania)
Thomas Ertman (New York University)
Martin Fuchs (Max Weber Kolleg, Erfurt)
David N. Lorenzen (El Colegio de México)
Eckart Otto (University of Munich)
Wolfgang Schluchter (University of Heidelberg)
Philip J. Stern (Duke University)
Hartmann Tyrell (University of Bielefeld)
R. Bin Wong (University of California, Los Angeles)
Ziony Zevit (American Jewish University, Los Angeles)
Dingxin Zhao (University of Chicago)

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Abbreviations of Weber's Works

AJ	<i>Ancient Judaism</i>
E&S	<i>Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology</i>
EW	<i>The Essential Weber: A Reader</i>
EEWR	<i>The Economic Ethic of the World Religions: Comparative Experiments in the Sociology of Religion</i>
FMW	<i>From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology</i>
GARS I	<i>Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Religionssoziologie I</i>
GARS II	<i>Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Religionssoziologie II: Hinduismus und Buddhismus</i>
GARS III	<i>Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Religionssoziologie III: Das antike Judentum</i>
MWG I/19	<i>Die Wirtschaftsethik der Weltreligionen. Konfuzianismus und Taoismus 1915–1920</i>
MWG I/20	<i>Die Wirtschaftsethik der Weltreligionen. Hinduismus und Buddhismus 1916–1920</i>
MWG I/21	<i>Die Wirtschaftsethik der Weltreligionen. Das antike Judentum 1911–1920</i>
MWG I/22–2	<i>Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft. Die Wirtschaft und die gesellschaftlichen Ordnungen und Mächte</i>
MWG I/22–4	<i>Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft. Die Wirtschaft und die gesellschaftlichen Ordnungen und Mächte</i>
MWG II/8	<i>Briefe 1913–1914</i>
PESC	<i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i>
RC	<i>The Religion of China: Confucianism and Taoismus</i>

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- RI *The Religion of India: The Sociology of Hinduism and
Buddhism*
SR *The Sociology of Religion*