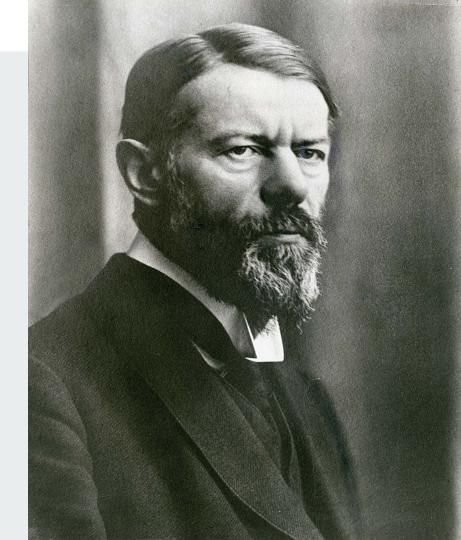
### Max Weber

- German sociologist, jurist, historian and political economist
- 21 April 1864 14 June 1920
- Major works: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Science as a Vocation, Politics as Vocation, Economy and Society



### Rationality and Social Action

- Action is considered social when the individual acts with the intent to influence the behaviour of one or more other people.
- Social action as the basis for sociological theory
- Social action is that actions can be differentiated based on the type of rationality the actor aims to convey.

### Rationality and Social Action

Elements of social action

- i) Social action encompasses all forms of human behaviour.
- ii) Social action involves assigning a subjective meaning to the behaviour.
- iii) The individual or individuals acting consider the behaviour of others.
- iv) Social action is directed toward a specific goal or course.

# Rationality and Social Action

**Social Action Theory**: Society is a construction of the interactions & meanings of its members. It depends on human behaviour & the meanings they embed in institutions

Interpretivist approach to studying society

Practicing empathy to understand the meaning and motives behind people's actions: **Verstehen** 

### **Social Action**

Weber conceives of sociology as a comprehensive science of *social* action

The typology of actions is the most abstract level of the conceptual system

For Weber, rationalization involves a key characteristic of the world we live in. Thus, the classification of actions governs the Weberian interpretation of the contemporary society.

### **Social Action**

- 1) Zweckrational action or Instrumental Rational Action
- 2) Wertrational action or Value Rational action
- 3) Affective action
- 4) Traditional action

**Zweckrational action**: Actor conceive's his goal clearly & combines means to attain it
Rationality is defined in terms of knowledge of an actor
Example: Engineer building a bridge

Wertrational action: Goal is to remain faithful to his own idea of honour. Example: Captain going down with his ship, because abandoning the sinking ship will be regarded as dishonourable

**Affective action**: dictated by the state of mind or humour of the subject. Emotional reaction of the actor overpowers (affectual orientation especially emotional)

Example: Mother slapping child

**Traditional action**: Dictated by customs & beliefs, obeying to certain norms due to conditioning

**Traditional action**: Dictated by customs & beliefs, obeying to certain norms due to conditioning. action, which is guided by customs and longstanding beliefs which become second nature or habit and is unquestioned.

Example: Greetings with folded hand

#### Weber in Iron Cage

- Instrumental Rationality and capitalism
- Rationalization/Formal Rationality
- Iron cage of Rationality
- Predictability vs Enchantment



#### Protestant Ethic and the spirit of capitalism

AMORE ET STVDIO ELVCIDANDAE ueritatis hace fuhfer/pta disputabuni Vuittenbergar, Practidete R. P. Martino Luther, Artiff &S. Theologia Magiltro, eighdesing thidem leftore Ordinatio. Quare perit ut qui non port-finat uerbis prefenses nobifeum difceptare, agant id literis ab-fentes. In nomine domini nollri lefu Chrifti. Amen.



Ominus & Magifter nofter Idus Christus, di cendo prenitentia agite ecc.omnem uitam B delium, poemitentiam elle uoluit.

Quod nerbii premitentia de poemtentia fecra-mentali(,i. confellionis & fatilia dionis qua-facerdotum minifterio celebratur) non po-

Non tamen solt satedit interiore; intmo interior nulla est, nisi foris opereturuarias carais mortificationes,

iii) Manue itag poena doncemanes odium fuif, i.poenitentia uera intus) scilices user ad introitum regni celorum.

Papa non uult nec potest, ullas poenas remittere; præter eas, quas arbitrio util fuo util canonum impoluir,

Papa no potelt remittere uliam cuipă, nili declarado & approbando remiffam a deo, Aut certe remittedo calus referuatos fibi, quibus conteptis culpa prorfus remaneret.

vij Nulli prorfus remittit deus culpam, quin fimal eum fubijciat humiliarum in omnibus facerdori fuo uicario.

Conones prenitentiales foli uinentibus funt impoliti; nibilo morieuris, fecundă coldem debet imponi.

Indebenenohis facit spirituffanctus in Papa; excipiedo infuis decreis semperarticulum mortis & necessitatis. Indocte & male sacisit sacerdotes ij ,qui mortiuris ptenitetias

canonicas in purgatorium referuant.

Zizaniailla de musanda poena Canonica in poena purgatorin indentur certe dormientibus Epileopis feminata,
Olimpena canonica no post, fed ante absolutionem impor

nebantur, taniğ tentamenta uerz contritionis.

#### DISPVIATIO DE VIRTVIB INDVLGEN.

xiij Morituri, per mortem omnia foluunt, & fegibus canonii mor-tui iam funt, habentes iure earū relaxationem.

Imperfecta fanitas feu charitas morituri, necestario fecum fen magnit timorem, tito quatore, quato minor frent ipla, xy Hie timor & horror, fatis elt, fe folo (utalia taccam) facere poe

nampurgatorij, cum lit proximus delperationis horrori,

xvi Videntur infernus purgatorium; celum differre : ficurdefor ratio, prope desperatio, securitas different,

avij Necessarium uidetur animabus in purgatorio sieut minui hor rorem, ita augeri charitatum.

xvin Nec probatt uidetur ullis, autrationibus, aut feripturis, o fint extra fratum meriti fen angendæ charitatis,

xix Nechoc probată effe uidetur, o fint de fira beatitudine cereze & focure, faltem oes, lices nos certillimi fimus.

xx Igit Papa per remillione plenaria omniti poenarii, non limpli citer omniti intelligit, led a leifo rimmodo impolitarii.

xxi Errantita pindulgentia predicatores fi, qui dicunt per Paparindulgentia, homine ab omni pernafolui & faluari,
zxii Quin nullam remitti animabus in purgatorio, quă in hacuitadebuillent fecundum Canones foluere.

xxiii Si remillio ulla omniti omnino prenant potalicui dari; certii eft cam no nifi perfectifiinis, i, paucifiimis dari.

xxiiii Falliabid necesses, maiorem parte populi; per indifferente islam & magnificam preme solute promissionem, xxv Quaste potestate habet Papa i purgatoriu grasiter tale habet

glibet Epifcopus & curat in fua dioceli, & parochia fpaliter.

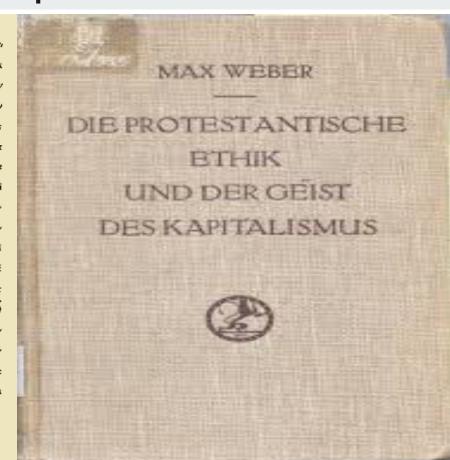
Optime facit Papa o no porestate claus (qua nullam habet) fed per modum fuffragii, dat animabus remiffionein. Hominë prædicant, qui flatim, ut factus nümus in ciffam tine

nient, cuplare dicunt animam.

Certi ell nümo incillam tinaiente, augeri quællum & auari-ciam polle: fullragiñ aŭreccleliae ell in achitrio dei folius, Quis feit fi omnes anima in purgatorio uelint redimi, fictit de

fancto Scuerino & pafehali factum narrature

Nullus fecurus est de neritate fuse contritionis: multo minus



### Reformation and coming up of the puritans

• Martin Luther King (16<sup>th</sup> century)

• Selling of indulgences

• Faith and faith alone, material or hegemonic power of the church, individual's interpretation is necessary

• Vernacular Bible (Latin to German)

### Reformation and coming up of the puritans

- Individual's will to pay rather than tithe
- Peasants movements across Europe
- John Calvin in Geneva (post reformation) symbolic city for morality
- Predestination

# Protestant ethic & the spirit of capitalism

- Economic Traditionalism frame of mind with respect to work (example: necessity work only)
- Economic Rationalism Modern Capitalism (Science, production process, surplus)

# Protestant ethic & the spirit of capitalism

How religion affects the development of economic system

He raises the question: To what degree is a particular attitude towards work determined by a religious conception?

Weber focuses particularly on the Calvinist. The Calvinist uses their work ethic & individualistic values to promote capitalism

# Protestant ethic & the spirit of capitalism

How religion affects the development of economic system

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### Calvinist conception

- 1) There exists an absolute, transcendent God who treats the world & rules it
- 2) God predestined each of us to salvation or damnation & it cannot be altered
- 3) God created the world of his own glory

### Calvinist conception

- 1) Man is obliged to work for the glory of god
- 2) Salvation comes to man only through divine grace
- 3) This -worldly 'Asceticism'- strict self-discipline, control and conquest of desires; simple, frugal life-style was recommended along with hard work
- 4) Supposed to re-invest into their endevour

# Calvinist conception

For Weber, all these elements exist separately in other religions, but their combination in Calvinism is unique

The individual is impelled towards work in order to overcome the anxiety inevitably resulting from his uncertainty about his eternal destiny

Work: rational and interpreted as obedience to the commandment of God

### **Protestant ethic**

Coincidence between certain requirements of Calvinist and capitalist logic:

The protestant ethic believes this worldly things are guilty and thus encourages not spending money on this worldly things: conduct necessary to the development of capitalism

Capitalism: rational organization of work with a view to profit, the profit needs to be saved & not consumed

The protestant ethic provides an economic motivation for this attitude of saving

### Ideal type

- An ideal type is a mental construct, similar to a model, used for examining and systematically characterizing a specific situation.
- The ideal type is a methodological tool that objectively examines reality. It analyses, classifies, organizes, and defines social reality without subjective bias.
- Example: If we want to study the state of democracy in India, our first step would be to define democracy by identifying its essential and typical characteristics. (Ideal types of historical particulars, such as capitalism.
- )

### Characteristics of Ideal type

- Ideal types are neither general nor average representations.
- Ideal types do not represent the entirety of reality, nor do they attempt to explain everything. Instead, they provide a partial understanding of the whole.
- Ideal types are neither a definitive description of reality nor a hypothesis, but they can assist in both description and explanation.

• Ideal types help guide empirical research and are used to organize data on historical and social realities (comparative).

# Ideal type

The ideal type represents a logical conclusion of Weberian thought.

Every ideal type is an organization of intelligible relations within a historical entity or sequence of events.

Ideal type is related to the process of rationalization.

# Ideal type

- 1) Ideal types of historical particulars, such as capitalism.
- 2) Ideal types which designate abstract elements of historical reality
- 3) Rationalizing reconstructions of a particular kind of behaviour