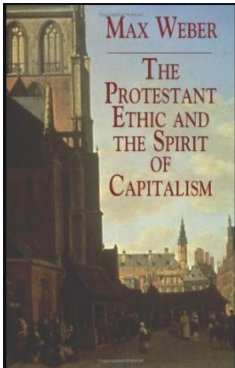


## 13.05.20 Weber's study The Protestant Ethic & the Spirit of Capitalism Storyboard

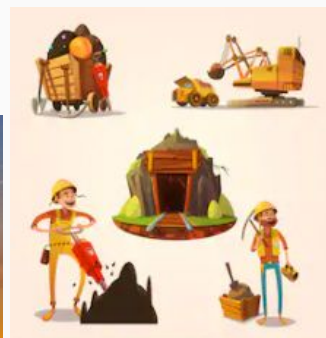
Charlotte Dyer



Max Weber, wrote a book in 1905 called, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. It is the study of the relationship between the ethics of Protestantism and the emergence of modern capitalism. He argues that the modern spirit of capitalism sees profit as an end in itself, and pursuing profit as virtuous.



He suggests that people who are religious turn away from world affairs, and are suspicious of wealth and ambition, preferring an aesthetic life with prayer. Weber suggests that Calvinism encouraged a different attitude to work.



Calvinists believed in predestination, a number of souls would go to heaven and God had reserved places for some, therefore this meant that they were constantly looking for signs to

suggest they are safe to go to heaven. Weber argued that because Calvinists needed to keep reassuring themselves it affected their worship and therefore had an effect on capitalism. This is because they built up businesses that generated wealth and reinvested in this, which fueled capitalism. Then capitalism would go on to have its own momentum. Overall Weber suggests it came from a theoretical source.



Weber argues that the religious ideas of groups such as the Calvinists played a role in creating capitalism. He turns to Protestantism for a potential explanation. Protestantism offers a concept of the worldly "calling," and gives worldly activity a religious character.