

Thorstein Veblen, *Theory of the Leisure Class*, cha. 8: *Industrial Exemption and Conservatism*.

Questions for Veblen's text

1. What is the process that shapes the evolution of the social structure according to Veblen?
2. What is the main factor that determines the development of societies? (paragraph 2, 7, 9, 10 and others)
3. How Veblen defines institutions?
4. What role institutions play in the development of society?
5. What is social progress or social advance according to Veblen?
6. Are institutions entirely fit to the present time? Is the process of adjustment of institutions to the changing environment an efficient one?
7. Why institutions are called "conservative" factors?
8. What is the role of the 'leisure class' in the development of capitalist society?
9. What are the main channels through which leisure class exerts influence on the course of the society?
10. How Veblen evaluates the role of the leisure class?

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, cha. 5: *Asceticism and the spirit of capitalism*.

Questions for Weber's text

1. Why hard work was so much praised in ascetic Protestantism described by Weber? Find two reasons.
2. What is the concept of 'the calling'? What are the economic consequences of this concept according to Weber?
3. Find two main elements of Protestant religious ethics that contributed to the development of capitalism, as Weber thought. Describe their impact on capitalism in economic terms.
4. Was ascetic Protestantism the necessary and/or sufficient reason for the rise of capitalism according to Weber?