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Q3(b)

Describe the main idea of Max Weber's book, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* as a critique of Marxism

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Sociology GS 1 · 20 marks · Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle; Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society; Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism; Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables; Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups; Mead - Self and identity.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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This-worldly asceticism

Disciplined refusal of luxury and idleness, directed into worldly work rather than into monastic withdrawal.

Elective affinity

Weber's way of stating a historical fit between an ethic and an economic spirit, short of one-factor causation.

Steel-hard housing

Weber's image of later capitalism as a compulsory system of work after the religious root has faded.

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