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Steven Gerardi

ABSTRACT

Max Weber (1864-1920) revealed his major Sociological observation, of the “Principle of Rationality”. The Principle of Rationality consisted of two social movements, Substantive (traditional culture/inner world) and Formal Rationality (modern society, Money Economy (Outer world)).

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ABSTRACT

Max Weber (1864-1920) revealed his major Sociological observation, of the "Principle of Rationality". The Principle of Rationality consisted of two social movements, Substantive (traditional culture/inner world) and Formal Rationality (modern society, Money Economy (Outer world)).

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I. PRINCIPLE OF RATIONALITY

IN Substantive rationality (Inner world) personal relationships are without the purely measured acts of economic calculability. Usually with a patriarchal charismatic leader with mystical power.

On the other hand, Formal Rationality (Otherworld View) is antagonistic to Substantive (traditional) Rationality. Indeed, Formal rationality is centered around "advanced institutions" and the "money economy". Indeed, Formal Rationality embraces bureaucratic authority in both the private economy and the political, with the objective discharge of business in a "precise, unambiguous, continuous manner.

Moreover, this historic-religious transformation, Weber labeled "Disenchantment/Iron Cage" which is a general trend in Western Civilization in which there is no way out, no returning to a time in which the world would be seen through magical/ mystical religious imagery. According to Weber The Iron Cage is blocked everywhere as a consequence of Substantive Rationality ongoing traditional quasi-magical elements within the economic ethics of the World View or Inner world.

According to Weber, the "Iron Cage" is only found in Formal Rationality where magical

elements of thought are displaced by that of rational, intellectual objective articulation.

Moreover, Formal rationality to a large extent has progressed to an intellectual, impersonal, calculating image based in rules and scientific laws, pushing back religion and the supernatural into the realm of the irrational. The outcome is the reduction of human relations to an objective and impersonal stance. Formal Rationality views World Events with systematic domination, through empirical knowledge, technological Knowhow, educational skills, and the intellectual elaboration of the world with a consistent and unified stance. Creating a dominant culture in which Modern Capitalism and Rationality treat the human population, and Nature in an impersonal and objective position, with formal Scientific and technical rules, or *Disenchantment*.

In the *Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Weber argued that the protestant sect of Calvinism changed Western Civilization through "hard work" and the accumulation of "wealth". This wealth or "Good Works assists "GOD" in developing "thereby creating "Grace" for the Individual.

This caption expresses the above concept well, "On Earth man must be certain of his state of grace, must do the works of him (GOD)who sent him.

No leisure and enjoyment, but only activity (work)serves to increase the "glory of god". Waste of time is thus the first and principle of the deadliest of sins." not leisure and enjoyment but only work activity serves to increase the glory of god. The "Waste of time" is thus the first and principle of the deadliest of sins." (Pg. 26 A Brief Survey of the Sociological Imagination 3RD Edition, Kendall Hunt, 2010 Steven Gerardi.

II. CONCLUSION

The outcome of John Calvin (and his followers) was the transformation of Western Civilization. The base believed that hard work and the accumulation of wealth ultimately leads to the “Grace of God” here on Earth, leading to eternal life in Haven. This simple concept has become the early Basis of American Capitalism, changing Western Civilization, and World history forever.

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