

Classical Sociological Theory and Religion

Recommended Reading List

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General Works:

Alexander, Jeffrey. (1987). "The Centrality of the Classics" in *Social Theory Today*, Eds A. Giddens and J. Turner. Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, pp. 11-57

Dianteill, E and M. Löwy. (2005). *Sociologies et Religion: Approches Dissidentes* Paris: Presses Universitaires de France

Morrison, Ken (1995) *Marx, Weber, Durkheim: Formations of Modern Social Thought* London: Sage

O'Toole, Roger (1984). *Religion: Classic Sociological Approaches* Toronto: McGraw Hill Ryerson

O'Toole, R. (2001). "Classics in the Sociology of Religion: An Ambiguous Legacy" *The Blackwell Companion to Sociology of Religion* Ed. Richard K. Fenn Oxford: Blackwell

Turner, Bryan S. (1991) *Religion and Social Theory* (2nd edition) London: Sage

Turner, B. S. (2011). *Religion and modern society: Citizenship, secularisation and the state.* Cambridge University Press.

Marx

Most of the important primary source texts can be found in:

Raines, John. (2002) *Marx on Religion* Philadelphia: Temple University Press

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels (1957) *On Religion*, Progress Publishers, Moscow 1957.

[\[Open Access\]](#)

Recommended Secondary Readings:

Billings, D. (1990). "Religion as Opposition: A Gramscian Analysis." American Journal of Sociology 96 (1): 1-31.

Birnbaum, Norman (1973) "Beyond Marx in the Sociology of Religion" in Charles Glock and Phillip Hammond eds *Beyond the Classics? Essays in the Scientific Study of Religion* New York: Harper and Row

Boer, Roland. (2011). "Opium, Idols and Revolution: Marx and Engels on Religion" Religion Compass volume 5 Issue 11 p.698-707

Boer, Roland. (2012). *Criticism of Earth* Leiden: E.J. Brill

Breckman, Warren. (2001). *Marx, the Young Hegelians, and the Origins of Radical Social Theory: Dethroning the Self*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Engels, F. 1966. The Peasant War in Germany New York: International Publishers

Engels, F. (1969). Anti-Dühring. London, Lawrence and Wishart.

Feuerbach, L. (1957). The Essence of Christianity. New York, Harper and Row.

Harvey, V. A. (1995). Feuerbach and the Interpretation of Religion. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Hjelm, Titus. 2013. "Religion, Discourse and Power: A Contribution towards a Critical Sociology of Religion." *Critical Sociology* . vol. 40 no. 6 855-872.

Ling, Trevor O.1979. *Buddha, Marx, and God: some aspects of religion in the modern world.* London: Macmillan.

Macintyre, Alasdair (1969) *Marxism and Christianity* London: Gerald Duckworth

McKinnon, Andrew (2005) "Reading 'Opium of the People': Expression, Protest and the Dialectics of Religion" in *Critical Sociology*, vol. 31 no. 1-2 [[Open Access](#)]

McKinnon, Andrew M. (2013) "Ideology and the Market Metaphor in Rational Choice Theory of Religion: A Rhetorical Critique of 'Religious Economies'." *Critical Sociology* 39.4: 529-543. [[Open Access](#)]

McKown, Delos B. (1975). *The Classical Marxist Critiques of Religion: Marx, Engels, Lenin, Kautsky.* The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1975.

McLellan, D. (1987). *Marxism and Religion: An Assessment of the Marxist Critique of Christianity* Basingstoke: MacMillan

McLellan, D. (1973). *Karl Marx: His Life and Thought* New York: Harper.

McLellan, D. (1969). *The Young Hegelians and Karl Marx* London: MacMillan.

McLeod, Hugh. (1997). *Religion and the People of Western Europe* Oxford: Oxford University Press

McLeod, Hugh. (1984). *Religion and the working class in nineteenth-century Britain.* London: Macmillan

Rojo, S. V. (1988). "La religion, opium du peuple et protestation contre la misère réelle Les positions de Marx et de Lénine." *Social Compass* 35(2-3) pp. 197-230

Smith, Christian. (1993). *The Emergence of Liberation Theology: Radical Religion and Social Movement Theory* Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Surin, Kenneth. (2013). "Marxism and religion." *Critical Research on Religion* 1.1: 9-14 [[Open Access](#)].

Turner, Denys (1983) *Marxism and Christianity* Oxford: Blackwell

Max Weber

Weber, Max ([1905-6]2002) *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* edited and translated by Peter Baehr and Gordon C. Wells New York: Penguin (This masterful contemporary translation is much to be preferred to Talcott Parsons classic rendering, even though that is now freely available [[Open Access](#)].

Weber, M. (1951) *The Religion of China* New York: Free Press

Weber, M. (1958) *The Religion of India* translated by H. H. Gerth and D. Martindale. New York: Free Press

Weber, M. (1956) *Ancient Judaism* translated by H.H. Gerth and D. Martindale. New York: Free Press

Weber, M. (1949a) 'The social psychology of world religions' in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* edited by H. Gerth and C.W. Mills. New York, Oxford University Press [[Open Access](#)]

Weber, M. (1949b) 'Religious rejections of the world and their directions' in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* edited by H. Gerth and C.W. Mills. New York, Oxford University Press [[Open Access](#)]

Weber, M. (1978) *Economy and Society* Ed. G. Ross and C. Wittich Berkley: University of California Press (includes the book that was once published separately as *Sociology of Religion* (1957)) [[Open Access](#)]

Recommended Secondary Literature:

Albrow, Martin. (1990). *Max Weber's Construction of Social Theory* London: MacMillan

Barbalet, Jack (2008) *Weber, Passion, Profits: The 'Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism' in Context* New York: Cambridge University Press

Bendix, Reinhard. (1962). *Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait* New York: Doubleday

Gorski, Philip (2003) *The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Rise of the State in Western Europe* Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Hennis, Wilhelm (1988). *Max Weber: Essays in Reconstruction* London: Allen and Unwin

Kemple, T. M. (2001). The Trials of Homo Clausus: Elias, Weber, and Goethe on the Sociogenesis of the Modern Self. Norbert Elias and Human Interdependencies. T. Salumets. Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press.

Kent, S. (1983). "Weber, Goethe, and the Nietzschean Allusion: Capturing the Source of the 'Iron Cage' Metaphor." Sociological Analysis 44(4): 297-319.

Marshall, Gordon (1993) *In Search of the Spirit of Capitalism* Aldershot Gregg Revivals

McKinnon, Andrew M (2010) "Elective Affinities of the Protestant Ethic: Weber and the Chemistry of Capitalism" *Sociological Theory* 28(1), pp 108-126 [[Open Access](#)]

Parkin, F. (1983). *Max Weber*. London: Routledge.

Poggi, Gianfranco. (1983). *Calvinism and the Capitalist Spirit: Max Weber's Protestant Ethic* Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press

Radkau, Joachim (2011) *Max Weber: A Biography* Cambridge: Polity Press

Sayer, Derek. (1991) *Capitalism and Modernity: An Excursus on Marx and Weber* London: Routledge

Samuelsson, K. (1957). *Religion and Economic Action: A Critique of Max Weber* New York: Harper and Row.

Schluchter W. (1989). *Rationalism, Religion and Domination: A Weberian Perspective*
Trans. Neil Solomon Stanford: Stanford University Press

Steeman, T.M. (1964). "Max Weber's Sociology of Religion" *Sociological Analysis*
25(1):50-58.

Tawney, R. H. (1962). *Religion and the rise of capitalism*. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith

Tenbruck, F. (1980). "The Problem of Thematic Unity in Max Weber's Sociology of Religion" *British Journal of Sociology* 31 316-51

Troeltsch, E. ([1911] 1975) *The Social Teaching of the Christian Churches* translated by Olive Wyon. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Turner, Stephen P. (2000). *The Cambridge Companion to Weber* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Turner, Bryan S. (1996) *For Weber: essays on the sociology of fate*. London: Sage.

Turner, Bryan S. (1974) *Weber and Islam: A Critical Study* London: Routledge and Kegan Paul

Emile Durkheim

Durkheim, Émile. 1995. The Elementary Forms of Religious Life translated by Karen Fields. New York: The Free Press.

Durkheim, Émile. 2001. The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life translated by Carol Cosman. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Either of the two modern translations of *Les formes élémentaires* are to be preferred to Swain's (1915) translation, even if it is out of copyright and is now freely available [[Open Access](#)]. Swain's translations are unhelpfully wooden, and occasionally take considerable liberties with the original. Cosman's translation is somewhat abridged.

Durkheim, Émile. 2005b. "The Dualism of Human Nature and its Social Conditions"
Durkheimian Studies/Etudes Durkheimiennes 11: 35-45.

Durkheim, Émile. *Durkheim on religion*. Ed. W S F Pickering. Scholars Press, 1994.

Recommended:

Allen, N.J. WSF Pickering and W. Watts Miller (1998) *On Durkheim's Elementary Forms*
London: Routledge

Alexander, Jeffery and Philip Smith (2005). *The Cambridge Companion to Durkheim*
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (especially chapters by Jones, Fields, Bellah,
Friedland, and Riley)

Aron, Raymond (1970) *Main Currents in Sociological Thought* (volume 2) London: Penguin

Bell, Catherine. (2006). "Ritual" in Robert Segal (ed.) *The Blackwell Companion to the Study
of Religion* Oxford: Blackwell

Bloor, David. (2000). "Representations as Institutions" in Durkheim and Representations
edited by W. S. F. Pickering. London and New York: Taylor and Francis.

Datta Ronjon Paul and Tara H Milbrandt (2014) 'The Elementary Forms of Religious Life:
Discursive Monument, Symbolic Feast' *Canadian Journal of Sociology* volume 39(4). [[Open
Access](#)]

Fournier, Marcel. (2013) *Emile Durkheim: a biography*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Fournier, Marcel. (2014). 'Les Formes élémentaires comme œuvre collective: les
contributions d'Henri Hubert et de Marcel Mauss à la sociologie de la religion d'Émile
Durkheim dans sa période avancée' *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 39(1) [[Open Access](#)]

Inglis, David and Roland Robertson. (2008). "The Elementary Forms of Globality:
Durkheim on the Emergence and Nature of Global Life." Journal of Classical Sociology 8:1,
5-25. [[Link](#)]

Jones, Robert Alun *The Development of Durkheim's Social Realism* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Lukes, Steven (1973) *Emile Durkheim, His Life and Work* London: Lane

McKinnon, A. (2014). 'Elementary Forms of the Metaphorical Life: Tropes at Work in Durkheim's Theory of the Religious'. *Journal of Classical Sociology*, vol 14, no. 2, pp. 203-221. [[Open Access](#)]

Nielson, Donald (1999) *The Three Faces of God: Society, Religion and the Categories of Totality* Albany: SUNY Press

Obadia, Lionel. 2014. 'Is Durkheim's "Sociologism" Outdated? Debating "Individualism" in Contemporary French Sociology of Religion' *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 39(1) [[Open Access](#)]

Pearce, Frank (1989) *The Radical Durkheim* London: Unwin and Hyman

Pickering, W.S.F. *Durkheim's Sociology of Religion: Themes and Theories* London: Routledge and Kegan Paul

Poggi, Gianfranco (2000) *Durkheim* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Ramp, William (2010) "Durkheim and After: Religion, Culture and Politics" in Bryan S. Turner *The New Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion* Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

Ramp, William (2014) 'The Elementary Forms as Political (A)theology' *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 39(4). [[Open Access](#)]

Rappaport, Roy (1999) *Religion and Ritual in the Making of Humanity* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Richman, Michele H. (2002). *Sacred revolutions: Durkheim and the College de Sociologie* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Stedman Jones, Susan. (2000). "Representations in Durkheim's Masters: Kant and Renouvier" in Durkheim and Representations edited by W. S. F. Pickering. London and New York: Taylor and Francis.