

Polarisation of classes	Classes seem to be at opposite ends of a scale, or polar opposites. Their interests, their ideas, their material conditions are completely opposed to each other.
Sacrament	Religious texts, e.g., The Bible, the Vedas etc.
Simplistic	Too easy, too obvious, neglecting deeper aspects. For instance, saying that “all drug-addicts come from broken homes” is a simplistic explanation. It neglects other factors like peer influence, poverty etc.
Stocks, shares and bonds	Companies or enterprises invite the public to participate in business by issuing shares, stocks and bonds. These are means by which individuals buy a small share of the company and thus enjoy a small share of the profits known as dividend.
This-worldly asceticism	Asceticism applied to worldly affairs or rigorous self-discipline in day-to-day life. This was the characteristic attitude of the early Protestants according to Weber. He contrasted it with other-worldly asceticism in religions like Hinduism. Here, individuals discipline themselves in order to renounce the world through penance, austerities etc.

21.7 FURTHER READING

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Collins, Randall 1986. *Max Weber - A Skeleton Key*. Sage Publications Inc.: Beverly Hills.

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28.8 SPECIMEN ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

i) a) F

- b) F
 - c) F
 - d) F
 - e) F
- ii) a) Marx said that the revolution of the proletariat would usher in a new social order, communism. The workers would own and control the means of production. In this way, the contradictions of the earlier stages would overcome.
- b) In the capitalist stage, commodities are exchanged for money. Money becomes the social bond in the capitalist system. Hence banks and financial institutions have an important role to play.
- c) Capitalism is a stage marked by a great deal of inequality. The capitalists own and control the means of production while the workers are forced to sell their labour power. The distance between these two classes becomes greater and greater leading to polarisation.

Check Your Progress 2

- i) a) By the term rationalisation, Max Weber meant the organisation of both the external world and human life itself. The external world was to be mastered and human activity was to be coordinated in such a manner as to result in greater efficiency and productivity. Nothing was left to chance or nature.
- b) Traditional capitalists treated business as a gamble. The products they sold were limited in range and often very expensive. Their clients were few. Overseas trade being very risky, business too was a very risky and uncertain affair.

Check Your Progress 3

- i) a) Rational legislation implies a legal system common to all. It means codification or writing down of rules and laws pertaining to individual rights and obligations. This makes it easier to enter into business contracts and helps in the growth of rational capitalism.
- b) The notion of predestination created a great deal of anxiety and insecurity in the minds of followers. They sought signs of their election not through prayers and rituals but through professional success. To be successful on this earth, they worked hard and reinvested their profits back into business so that they could be productively used.
- ii) a) F
- b) F
- c) F

Check Your Progress 4

- i)
 - a) society, social realism
 - b) interpretative
 - c) irrationality, contradictions
 - d) infrastructure, superstructure
- ii) Karl Marx described the emergence of capitalism in terms of a changing mode of production. The contradictions in the previous stage, i.e. feudalism, would lead to the emergence of a new economic system, capitalism. Thus his explanation was basically an economic one. Weber, though he did not neglect the role of economic factors, also spoke of political and religious factors. He maintained that it was important to understand the psychological motivations and world-view, which made capitalism possible. Thus, Weber's description is multi-layered and more complex.



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