

Durkheim

Sociology



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Durkheim One of the concepts explained in this reading is the concept of wealth and material acquisitions and Christian ethics. Throughout this reading, the author undertakes the process of explaining this concept and tries to support it using various literatures. Various literature used in this reading to support this concept shows that in different Christian believes it is viewed differently. The discussion of this concept in terms of the asceticism differs greatly from the discussion of the same concept in terms of Puritanism and Calvinism. This reading tries to make this concept clear by comparing it in both the three Protestantism aspects. This is actually achieved since it makes this concept better understood from the reading. The other concept found in this reading is the concept of labor and the Christian calling. This concept is discussed throughout this reading and supported using material from different literatures. One of the issues this reading discusses regarding this concept is how the issue of division of labor is influenced by the beliefs of Christian calling. Moreover this reading discusses this concept in terms of how they believe on the Christian calling influence how hard people believer work in their daily undertakings. Discussing this concept this way has made it clearly understood and easily supported with facts.

The overall work of the author explains about capitalism and Protestantism. In this aspect, it discusses the maxims of Protestantism and how it affects daily economic conduct of Christians. Both the concept of labor and Christian calling and the concept of wealth acquisition and Christian ethics relates directly to this overall work of the author. This is because economic conduct and material acquisition are connected and Christian ethics and Protestantism are connected. Moreover, labor is connected to economic

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conduct while the Christian calling is connected to Protestantism. Therefore, also our second concept is directly connected to overall work of the author. Looking at creative destruction, we can see how it relates to our two concepts. Process of creative destruction is the center of the concept of capitalism (Schumpeter, 1994). According to our two concepts as brought out in the reading one should not give very much value to material possessions. This contradicts the issue of capitalism brought out by creative destruction since in this case the improvements are done because of the value given to material possessions. These include a constant adopting of new ideas and abandoning the older ones to increase productivity (Nolan & Croson, 1995). Thus, creative destruction is a counterexample of the idea of material possession and Christian ethics.

Creative destruction process involves adding, eliminating and deploying employees at many different levels of production to enhance productivity (Nolan & Croson, 1995). According to our concept of labor and the Christian calling people should work hard to improve their calling and not to improve their earthly gains. Creative destruction thus contradicts this concept since in creative destruction any improvement done on labor whether it adding, eliminating, or deploying of employees is done to enhance material gains which can be gained from labor. Therefore, creative destruction is a counterexample of the idea of labor and the Christian calling.

References

Nolan, R. L., & Croson, D. C. (1995). *Creative Destruction: A Six Stage Process for Transforming the Organization*. Boston, MA: Harvard Business Press.

Schumpeter, J. A. (1994). *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*. New York, NY: Routledge Publishers.