

Chapter 1

Topic 2 Religion and social change

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Activity: Media

Weber and Calvinism

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify some key features of Calvinism.
- Identify the links between Calvinist beliefs and the development of capitalism in Europe.

A. In pairs, watch the two clips and answer the questions that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mx3BkVS7TA>

'Weber and the Protestant Ethic'

1. What was Weber asked to research?
2. Who was at the centre of Weber's study?
3. Who did the Catholic Church believe was at the top of the hierarchy of labour?
4. How did Luther and Calvin's beliefs differ from this view?
5. How did Luther and Calvin's views on profit differ from those of the Catholic Church?
6. According to Calvin, what must you do with profit?
7. How did Calvin's views on the Bible encourage greater literacy?
8. According to Weber, why was wealth held in the hands of German Protestants?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-0sIHDzsU4>

'Max Weber and the Protestant Ethic'

9. According to the clip, how do those who pursue religion usually see life?
10. What did Calvinists believe in?
11. What were Calvinists afraid of?
12. What was one sign that an individual had been saved?

B. Using your answers from the questions above, write a summary paragraph on how Calvinism led to the development of modern capitalism in Northern Europe.