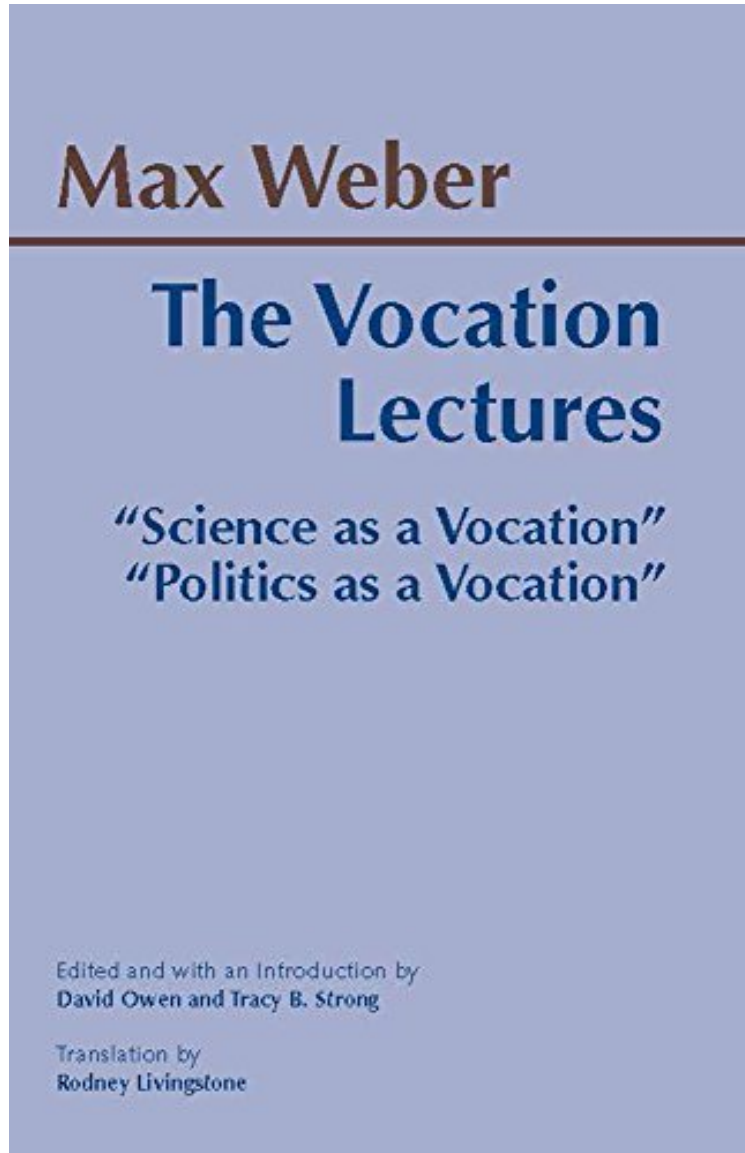


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The Vocation Lectures (Hackett Classics)

Max Weber

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Max Weber : The Vocation Lectures (Hackett Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vocation Lectures (Hackett Classics):

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. MUCH SUPERIOR TO MANY MODERN TEXTSBy Yehezkel DrorThere is much of importance in the Science as a Vocation essay. But I will concentrate on my own domain, namely the qualities needed from political leaders.Having studied the German original and later taught the vocation lectures many years ago, still I decided to reread them in a new and much improved translation. I did so while

finalizing a manuscript of my own on the qualities of mind required from political leaders in the emerging epoch of metamorphosis. The text is based on a lecture given before a student organization in Munich in January 1919, with some additions. This context influenced much of the contents. But this was a period of transformation, as is ours (and as was the period of Machiavelli), making some of his comments all the more pertinent. In particular relevant for our period are, inter alia, the following qualities which Weber demands from those wishing to be political leaders: living for politics and not from it; being fully committed to politics as a "vocation," including in the sense of "calling;" acting according to an ethics of responsibility for consequences, in some relation with an "ethics of commitment," making all of political leadership into an ethical endeavor; being fully mature, in the sense of ability "to scrutinize the realities of life ruthlessly, to withstand them, and to measure up to them inwardly (page 91); understanding the crucial importance of power and force; taking "distance" from issues and oneself; and, on important issues, "reaching the point where he says, 'Here I stand, I can do no other'" (page 92). These and other insights make the Politics as a Vocation text much superior to the vast majority of modern books on the requirements of political leadership. It should be a central text in all teaching and mentoring on political leadership. And at least pages 76-94 require reading and rereading by all politicians and whoever considers choosing politics as his vocation. Professor Yehezkel Dror, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 13 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating insight into interbellum Germany. By J. P. Thulin. This book contains two lectures given by Max Weber in 1917 and 1918 (two years before his death). The lectures came about as a result of a repeated request from the University of Munich. The lectures center around two topics, what is required by somebody seriously pursuing vocation as a scientist, and what is the marking of a true politician? This is not a regular essay, it is not divided into chapters, and Weber is not trying to present any theories etc. I found the lectures to be very interesting, because they show us the thoughts of a great thinker at the end of his life. They contain a lot of observations on life and society in general, many of which are not uplifting. One can really sense here the dark, uncertain and gloomy times that was interbellum Germany. At one point in the politics-lecture, one it is almost eerie to read how close Weber came to predicting the events which were to take place in Germany 10 years later. Not a must have for most people, but for those interested in Weber, interbellum Europe, or great thinkers in general, I would recommend this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sehr Gut! By Indrek. I wonder why I did not read it earlier. It had changed my life! Excellent demonstration how thinking should work before decision making..

Originally published separately, Weber's Science as a Vocation and Politics as a Vocation stand as the classic formulations of his positions on two related subjects that go to the heart of his thought: the nature and status of science and its claims to authority; and the nature and status of political claims and the ultimate justification for such claims. Together in this volume, these newly translated lectures offer an ideal point of entry into Weber's central project: understanding how, as Weber put it, "in the West alone there have appeared cultural manifestations [that seem to] go in the direction of universal significance and validity.

[Owen and Strong] beautifully weave together the historical, philosophical, academic and personal circumstances that shaped Weber's world-view and these efforts reward the reader with a nuanced and thorough understanding. . . . Students, and even established academics, will benefit tremendously from this new edition. Rating: ***** --Jeffrey Roberts, University of Kent, in Political Studies