

Studies in the Theory of Action

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Volume 5

From 1924 to 1927 the American social theorist Talcott Parsons had spent these early years of his academic career as a graduate student in Europe, at first in London then in Heidelberg. In Germany he discovered that he could gain a doctoral degree with three semesters' credit, oral examinations and a dissertation. He took lectures with Emil Lederer, Karl Jaspers and Karl Mannheim, but it was Parsons' supervisor Edgar Salin, who encouraged him to study the concept of capitalism from a sociological point of view. In retrospect, Parsons confessed: "*This work crystallized two primary foci of my future intellectual interests, the nature of capitalism as a socioeconomic system and, second, the work of Weber as a social theorist*".

This volume publishes for the first time Talcott Parsons' doctoral thesis, originally written in German and now translated into English. The publication of the German text is a biographic testimonial of the "Wanderjahre" of this young "incurable theorist". The translation into English offers food for thought for further investigation into Parsons' understanding of Max Weber's sociology. Together, this page-by-page bi-lingual edition shall support the reader's effort to trace and understand Parsons' theoretical focus at the time: the spirit of capitalism. In their introductory texts the translators offer an insight into the historical context in which this work had been written.

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Capitalism according to Sombart & Max Weber

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Günter Stummvoll, Bruce C. Wearne (eds.)

Der Kapitalismus bei Sombart und Max Weber Capitalism according to Sombart and Max Weber

Talcott Parsons' Dr. Phil Dissertation in German and English

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