

Sociology of Religion

Sacred - Profane

Universal distinction

Durkheim

If we call God an intrinsically superior reality, with respect to which humans feels inferior and dependent, then “God” cannot but be a symbolic representation of society - its power and majesty.

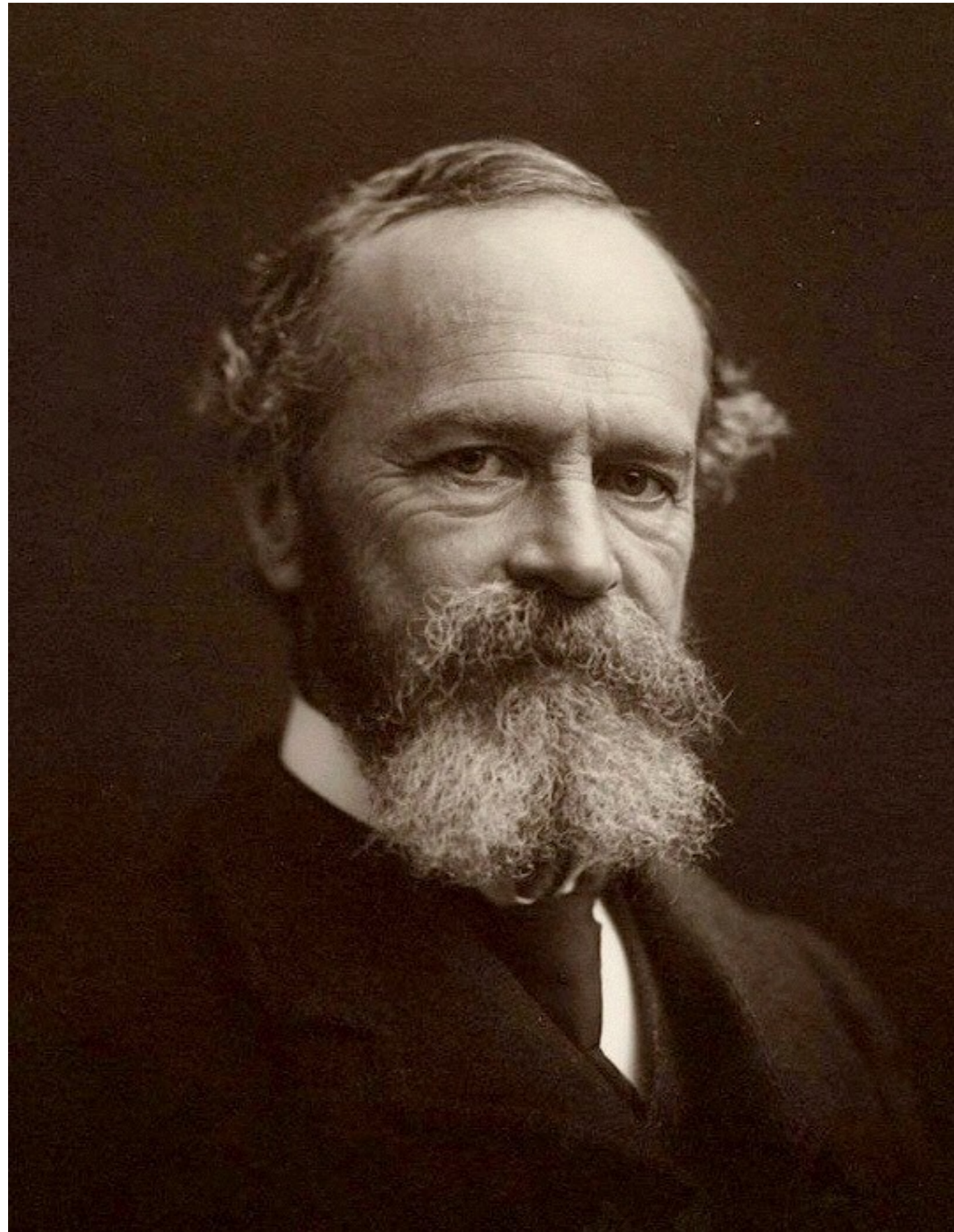
“We can say that the faithful are not mistaken when they believe in the existence of a moral power to which they are subject and from which they receive what is best in themselves. That power exists and it's society.”

Religion for Durkheim is an example of structure and practices that introduce individuals to transcend themselves...

Religion without religion

a communion of spirits can no longer be focused on specific rituals and beliefs, which are eroded by ongoing developments; thus, nothing remain that man can love and honour in common, except man himself. Thus man has become a God to men, for they cannot fashion for themselves other gods without lying to themselves.

William
James



Meet Marianne & Max (1864 - 1920)



The hermeneutic tradition

hermeneutic |,hərmə'n(y)ootik| adjective
concerning interpretation, esp. of the Bible or literary texts.
noun
a method or theory of interpretation.

His focus was on the subjective
components of human events.

3 forms of Actions / Power / Obedience

- Traditional
- Emotional
- Rational

The book is about the *genesis* of
Capitalism, not capitalism.

“strongly hostile to capitalism”

It's not because of Metals, not because
of Geography, not the Jews either.

materialist?

Marx vs. Weber

idealist?

“But it is, of course, not my aim to **substitute** for a one-sided **materialistic** an equally one-sided **spiritualistic** causal interpretation of culture and of history. **Each is equally possible**, but each, if it does not serve as the preparation, but as the conclusion of an investigation, accomplish equally little in the interest of historical truth.”

The execrable hunger for gold
vs.
Entrepreneurs

“Unlimited greed for gain is not in the least identical with capitalism, and is still less its spirit. **Capitalism may even be identical with the restraint, or at least a rational tempering, of this irrational impulse.**”

Spirit of Capitalism?

“This spirit led individual entrepreneurs to search continuously and intensively for new profit opportunities, and it sustained their unprecedented willingness to accumulate, risk, invest and reinvest, deploy initiative, search for new markets and new products and adopt whatever commercial and productive practices were conducive to higher efficiency...”

...the spirit of capitalism enjoins the entrepreneur to consider his economic activity as a calling (*Beruf*).

He expects his work to shape his very identity, to mobilise and develop his most personal qualities.

+
Bureaucracy and Science.

“A product of modern European civilization, studying any problem of universal history, is bound to ask himself to what combination of circumstances the fact should be attributed that in **Western civilization, and in Western civilization only**, cultural phenomena have appeared which **(as we like to think)** lie in a line of development **having universal significance and value.**

Power	character	transmission-chain	economic
Rational	ordinary	administrative apparat (bureaucracy)	capitalist
Traditional	ordinary	relatives, slaves, clients, vassals, etc.	feudalism
Charismatic	extra-ordinary	disciples, etc.	primitive / antieconomic

Rationalisation!

What is Capitalism about?

- ...well, Capital
- means of productions are private
- Rational accounting
- Market oriented
- Work rationally organised
- Technology

Not self-sufficiency but division of labour.

How the *Protestant Ethic*
contributed to this?

The role of the entrepreneurs,
shaping is worldview.

Not technology or stuff.

Spirit of Capitalism?

- Rationality
- Traditional is not good anymore
- No emotions
- Long term views
- Objective results
- Calculability
- Innovation
- The point is to profit, not consume.

Christians Values

- Profit is bad (or suspicious)
- Don't mess to much worth real life
- Conformity
- Tradition

Who? and Why?

- Not Lutherans
 - Luther was a traditionalist.
- Calvinists!!!
 - Dogma of predestination.
 - You can't talk to God.
 - **“Disenchantment”**
 - Everybody is a monk.

For the Calvinists all feelings of proximity to, let alone intimacy with, God are absurd and blasphemous.

Calvinist God is an hidden an silent one.

Worldly asceticism

“The puritan **wanted** to work in a calling (*Berufsmensch*), we are **forced** to do so”.