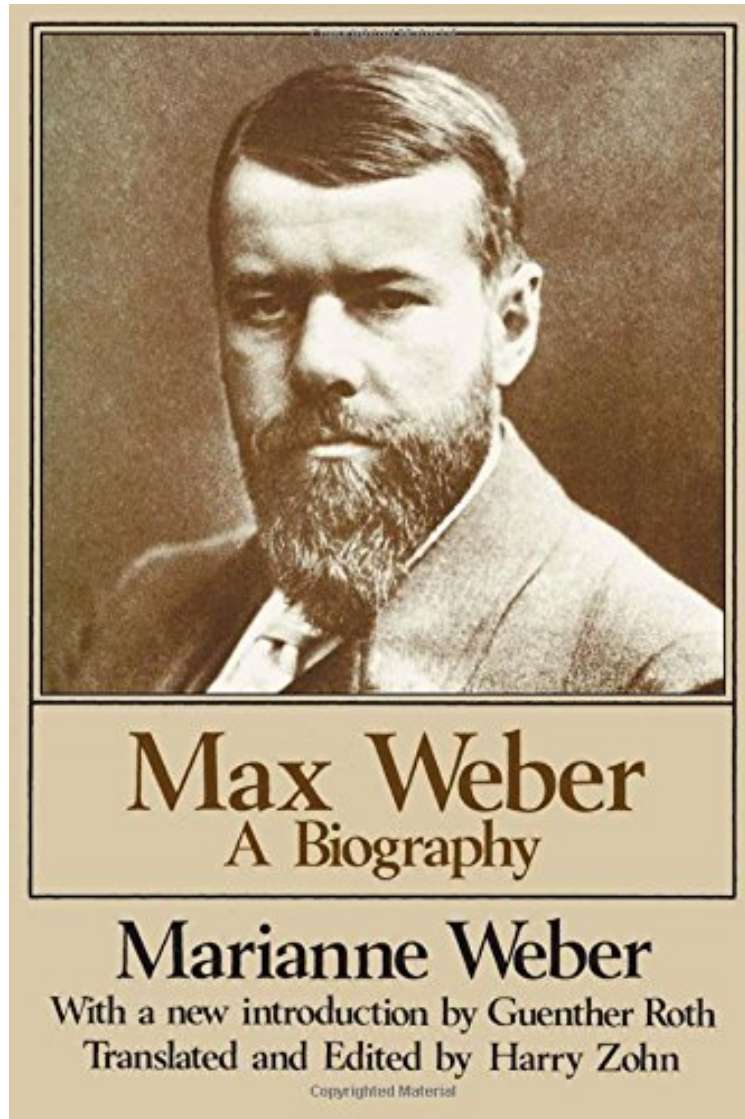


Max Weber: A Biography

Marianne Weber

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A founder of contemporary social science, Max Weber was born in Germany in 1864. At his death 56 years later, he

was nationally known for his scholarly and political writings, but it was the international reception of his oeuvre over the last forty years that has made him world-famous. "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism," "The Economic Ethics of the World Religions" and his magnum opus, "Economy and Society," with its treatment of the relations of economics, politics, law and religion, belong to the great achievements of 20th-century social science. The groundwork for the posthumous Weber reception was laid by Weber's widow Marianne, a well-known feminist writer, who followed up her edition of his collected works with one of the greatest biographies in a generation that produced many important accounts of itself. Although unavailable in English until a decade ago, the importance of Marianne Weber's 1926 work had been widely understood. Sociologist Robert A. Nisbet called it "a moving and deeply felt biographical memoir." Historian Gerhard Masur cited the book as "the foundation of all further inquiries into Max Weber's life and influence." Beginning with Max's ancestry and early years, Marianne Weber guides us through his life as student, young lawyer, scholar and political writer, quoting liberally from his voluminous correspondence. Her account of his nervous breakdown after 1897, which curtailed his academic career but ultimately strengthened his creative energies, provides deep insight into some of the personal tensions that troubled him to the end. In addition to her perceptive personal and intellectual life before the First World War, describing many scholars, social reformers, politicians and literary figures within and beyond the famous Heidelberg circle of the Webers. The new introduction by Guenther Roth situates Marianne Weber's own role in the contemporary setting and discusses the current state of Weber research and of the international Weber reception.

Language NotesText: English, German (translation)About the Author Guenther Roth is professor of sociology at the University of Washington. He co-edited Weber's Economy and Society and co-authored Scholarship and Partisanship (with Reinhard Bendix) and Max Weber's Vision of History (with Wolfgang Schluchter). Harry Zohn is professor of German language and literature at Brandeis University. He is the translator of Max Weber: A Biography written by Marianne Weber and recently reissued by Transaction Publishers. Harry Zohn is professor of German language and literature at Brandeis University. He is the translator of Max Weber: A Biography written by Marianne Weber and recently reissued by Transaction Publishers.