

Sample

Economic development theory

1 Weber and Protestant ethics?

Culture accounts for the cross-regional, cross-national, subnational variation of economic development

Religious ideas emerging from Protestant Reformation includes the Doctrine of **predestination**, which leads to psychological torment and desire to prove that one is “saved”

It helps unleash “**spirit of capitalism**” including **acquisitiveness and austerity**, which leads to accumulation of investment capital

lay foundation for Industrial Revolution, and the big divergence happened, leading countries like US UK Netherlands

Today, people born into "iron cage", once the capitalist system has established, it will be self-sustain, people need obey

Initially emerged from protestant group

Pessimistic about non-protestant states

2 Modernization theory

Optimistic about prospects for “modernisation” in new nations

Traditional society is mostly **rural, poor and rely on agricultural** production.

The population is mostly **uneducated**. **Traditional values** including religious, group-oriented, deferential;

In modern societies, the industrial production is the main economic pillar. The society is wealthy, the education is widely accessible. Modern values such as secular, individualistic and democratic is the mainstream values

“Tradition” and “modernity” **are universal** categories, not specific to any particular culture

“modernisation” and “Westernisation is synonyms

- - **Single path**; not specific to any particular culture
- - **Western-centric** (like Marx)
- **Optimistic** about the 3 W new-nations modernization