



Economics and Religion

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Tentative: for discussion and suggestions only. Mason Gaffney, January 17, 2002

Reading list, Economics and Religion

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologica*. Excerpts.

Beschloss, Michael, 1980. Kennedy and Roosevelt. NY: W.W. Norton & Company

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Brueggeman, Walter, 1977. *The Land*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press

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Calvin, John, *Institutes of Religion*, selections on economics

Cooney, John, 1984. *The American Pope: the Life and Times of Francis Cardinal Spellman*. NY: TIMES Books

Cornwell, John, 1999, *Hitler's Pope, The Secret History of Pius XII*. New York, London, etc., Viking.

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Gaffney, Mason, 1999. *Henry George, Dr. Edward McGlynn, and Pope Leo XIII*

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Kung, Hans, 2001. *The Catholic Church. A short history*. NY: The Modern Library

Lincoln, John C., 1992 (orig. 1948). *Christ's Object in Life*. Reprinted, no data given. Available from The Lincoln Electric Company, Cleveland; and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA.

Marx, Karl,

Molony, John, 1991. *The Worker Question*. A new historical perspective on *Rerum Novarum*. North Blackburn, Victoria, Australia: Collins Dove.

O'Brien, David J., 1968. *American Catholics and Social Reform: the New Deal Years*. NY: Oxford UP

Ryan, Fr. John A., 1916, *Distributive Justice* (Rev. ed. 1927 New York: Macmillan).

Sombart, Werner, 1902. *Modern Capitalism*

Sombart, Werner, 1911, *The Jews and Economic Life*.

Tawney, R.H., rpt. 1961. *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*. NY: Penguin Books.

Thompson, James Westfall, and Edgar Nathaniel Johnson, 1937. *An Introduction to Medieval Europe*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company Inc. Chapter XXI, "The Medieval Reformation."

Trevor-Roper, Hugh, 2001?. *The Crisis of the 17th Century: Religion, the Reformation, and Social Change*.

Tull, Charles J., 1965. *Father Coughlin and the New Deal*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press

Weber, Max, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. BR 115 E3 W4 1958 (orig. 1904)

POSSIBLE SUPPLEMENTS: TO BE REVIEWED

Braudel, Fernand, 1949, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the age of Philip II*.

Andelson, Robert, and James Dawsey, *Liberation Theology*.

de Laveleye, Émile, 1875, "Le protestantisme et le catholicisme dans leurs rapports avec la liberte et la prosperite des peuples," *Revue des Belgique*.

Davison, E.S., *Forerunners of St. Francis*.

Greeley, Andrew,

North, Gary, app to Rushdoony on Christian Economics

North, Gary. *Introduction to Christian Economics*

North, Gary. *Leviticus: an Economic Commentary*. BS1255.2 N67 1994

North, Gary. *The Coase Theorem: a Study in Economic Epistemology*

Trueheart, William. *Christian Economics*

Rushdoony, R.J., *Institutes of Biblical Law*.

Rushdoony, R.J., *The Myth of Overpopulation*.

warren, Donald I., 1996. *Radio Priest: Charles Coughlin, The Father of Hate Radio*. NY: Free Press

Wills, Garry. *Bare Ruined Choirs: Doubt, Prophecy, and Radical Religion*.

Wills, Garry. *Cincinnatus: George Washington and the Enlightenment*

Yallop, David, 1984. *In God's Name: an Investigation into the Murder of Pope John Paul I*. Toronto, NY, etc.: Bantam Books

Tentative Syllabus, Economics and Religion

1. Economic justice in the bible.

Emancipation from slavery (Exodus)

The Covenant (Leviticus)

Equal division of lands

Periodic debt forgiveness and redivision of lands (Jubilee)

Dematerialization of religion

The Prophets

Attacks on concentration of lands

Pleas for renewal, purification, keeping the covenant

Jesus

Charity carried to extremes

Adaptation to persecution

Living communally in poverty and simplicity, and without family

Confirmation of law and prophets

Attacks on hypocrisy in the establishment

Readings: J.C. Lincoln; Walter Brueggeman; Thomas Jefferson, North (Leviticus)

2. Success and institutionalization: wealth, power, and goal displacement, from Mystery to Hierarchy

A. A state church

B. Secular wealth of churches; materialism and worldliness

Perpetual corporate existence of Church, with inexorable accumulation of church property over generations. Extent of lands of churches and monastic orders, and lax usage of lands. The blight of Mortmain. Tax exemption, and threat to secular state.

Churches as sinks of capital, draining resources from secular life: private enterprise, and the state. Costly church architecture, how financed.

Vicarious wealth of poor individuals within rich church corporations

Periodic confiscations of church lands and other wealth, over many cycles and centuries.

Effect of church wealth on churchmen's attitudes and character: wealth undermines zeal.

Effect of church wealth on doctrines.

Churches as going-concerns: need for ongoing contributions, and its effect on doctrines

Church organizations as models for business corporations

Is decadence inevitable?

C. Secular power of churches

"Universal" church as an umbrella state

Warrior church: the Crusades, Teutonic knights, Templars, Hospitalers, etc.

Adaptation to nationalism:

merging of church and state

clerics as ministers of state (Richelieu, Mazarin, Laud, Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, Cecil, et al. Comparisons with Puritan theocrats in old New England, Brigham Young, Anthony Comstock, prohibitionists, Falwell, Robertson, et al.)

rarity of separation of church and state (cases of Venice, U.S.A.)
theocracies, then and now

Egalitarian theocracies: Puritans, State of Deseret, The Commonwealth (Cromwell), Zionism, Jesuits in Paraguay, the Amish, religious communes on the American frontier

Bluenose theocracies: Geneva, et al.

Church organizations as models of government
churches in democratic politics

Social gospel movement and progressive politics

Religious political parties in Europe

Abp. Michael Corrigan and Fr. Edward McGlynn in New

York politics

Comstockery in politics

Denial of high office to Phil Sheridan, Al Smith

National Catholic Welfare Conference

Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, et al.

Cardinal Spellman

The Vatican and fascism

The Vatican and EEC

The Vatican and the Cold War

The Vatican and the EU

D. Substitutes for distributive justice

1. Charity and medicine
2. Education
3. Admission to Heaven
4. Moral censure, repression, persecution

E. Control of education

Filtering out unwanted challenges to hierarchy and property

Moral of 1933 Concordat with Hitler, exchanging secular power for control of education

Church schools in the U.S.

Higher ed in the U.S. – the Ivies, training missionaries

Censorship of writing, theatre, art, etc.

Readings: Gaffney, Isacson, Kepel, Kung, Molony, Tawney, Thompson & Johnson, Bunker

3. Grass-roots purifying movements, and their suppression

Donatists

Albigensians (Cathari, Bogomiles)

Waldensians (Humiliati, Poor Men of Lyons)
Lollards
Vaudois
Anabaptists
Diggers
Hussites
Taborites
~~Montagnards~~
Puritanism

obsessively religious,
pietistic
sanctioning

Relationship of persecutions of egalitarians with persecutions of witches and the morally permissive

4. Monastic, ascetic, and mendicant orders and their cooption and loss of zeal, in sequential cycles, during the abortive "Medieval Reformation"
Cluniacs, Cistercians, Benedictines, Carthusians, Franciscans, Dominicans, et al.

(Misc. internal movements and "heresies" and their economic contexts:
Arminianism, Jansenism, Febronianism, the Shakers, Amish, Doukhobors, Mennonites, Puritans, etc.)

Readings: Thompson and Johnson; Davison; ?

5. Thomism as an economic code

Sanctity of property in land; limited endorsement of commerce, profit, and usury; endorsement of gilds

Revival of Thomism by Leo XIII, in *Rerum Novarum*, 1893. Influence on The New Deal, 1933, via John A. Ryan, Joe Kennedy, Ray Moley, Charles Coughlin, et al.

Readings: Aquinas, Brinkley, Flynn, Molony, O'Brien, Tull, Beschloss, Brinkley, Gaffney, Gilhooley, Ryan

6. Flourishing of commerce and finance under Catholic hegemony during the Renaissance

City-states in Italy, northern and southern Germany, Flanders.

Erasmus as the voice of bourgeois Catholics. Other leading bourgeois Catholics

The role of Jews

Readings: Sombart, Trevor-Roper

7. The Reformation, nationalism, and commercialization

Calvinism and the bourgeois spirit. Originally, Calvinism represented mobile commercial capital, allied with labor vs. landed wealth and political power. Then came a gradual union of mobile capital with land against labor, as capital abandons its old ally, and Calvinism rigidified. Mobile capitalists turn to Arminianism and Puritanism.

Competing theses.

Weber: Calvinism bred commerce.

Tawney: enclosure movement forced men into commerce and industry

Marx: commerce bred Calvinism

Sombart: the Jews pioneered commerce and capitalism

Trevor-Roper: success of Luther panicked Catholic princes into persecuting, suppressing and expelling dissenters, including the creative leaders of capitalism, who built up Protestant states.

Proliferation of Protestant sects, and the economic classes that supported them

Readings: Weber, Tawney, Marx, Sombart, Trevor-Roper, Calvin,

8. Counter-reformation and the weakening of economies of Catholic nations

Persecutions and expulsions

Anti-commercial tenor of tax policy. French and Spanish and Austrians turn taxes against trade, capital, and labor (*alcabala, cientos, douanes, gabelle, octrois, taille, corvee, robot*, et al.). Spanish *mesta* as symbol of domination by landed interests.

Counter-reformation comes later to France, 1685, than to Spain. Expulsion of Huguenots.

Backwardness of Ireland.

Religious wars: high cost to Germany

Trevor-Roper

9. The Age of Reason, Enlightenment, Science, Benevolent Despotism, and anti-clericalism

Readmission of dissidents to France; expulsion of Jesuits

Freemasonry

French Revolution and loss of church lands

Deism, Freemasonry, and the U.S. Constitution. Attitudes of Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Paine, et al. Virginia statute of religious freedom, and the 1st Amendment. Separation of church and state. The Francophile Jeffersonian dynasty. Physiocracy.

Readings: Wills (Cincinnatus), Jefferson

10. Leading role of bourgeois religious dissidents in commerce, industry, and finance.

International diaspora of persecuted and distinctive groups facilitates international trade and finance: Templars, Jews, Quakers, Huguenots, et al. Chinese

Dissenters from Church of England as leaders of industrial revolution in England; Huguenots in Europe.

Readings: Trevor-Roper,

11. 20th Century scandals in Vatican finance: resolved, or ongoing?

Readings: Cooney, Cornwell, Yallop, Kung, Kepel,

12. Churches as bases for egalitarian politics in America

Equal division of lands in Puritan New England; model for Jeffersonian land policies?

Egalitarian religion on the American frontier: The Great Awakening, etc.

✓ Relation to local tax policies.

Abolitionism and religion

The Social Gospel, immigrants, and the Progressive Movement

MLK and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Catholic Bishops' pronouncements

Liberation Theology in Latin America

Leadership of Jews in various egalitarian movements

13. Comstockery as an antidote to the Social Gospel: repressive censure directed against progressives. Echoes of witch-hunting craze.

14. Institutionalized religion as a bulwark of law, order, and especially property

Southern Churches in support of slavery and segregation; tolerance of lynching

Persecutions of heretics, infidels, witches, and Christian egalitarian movements

Persecution of Fr. Edward McGlynn

Rejection of religious views of W. Wilson, W.J. Bryan, and Al Smith during the 1920s, along with their egalitarian economic views

Regressive tax policy: Falwell, Robertson, Gary North, R.J. Rushdoony, Sun Moon, et al.

Protestant fundamentalism, economic teachings: Calvinism revived, or subverted? Scriptural strictures revived, or subverted?

Readings: Buenker, Cooney, Cornwell, Gaffney,

✓ 15. Perpetual ambivalence of churches toward economic justice

The Gospels vs. institutionalized churches

16. Effects of prosperity, depression, war, and peace on fashions in religion

Synchronization of austerity in religion, and economic policy?