Anticapitalist Readings of Weber's Protestant Ethic Ernst Bloch, Walter Benjamin, György Lukács, Erich Fromm (2009)

Michael Löwy (Research Director of Sociology at the Center National de la Recherche Scientifique).

Conference: International Conference for Religion and Politics in the Secular World, October 10, 2009, Shanghai.

Proceedings: Proceedings of the International Conference for Religion and Politics in the Secular World.

Organizers: The National Research Base for World Marxism and Thought Trends at Fudan University, School of Philosophy, The Center for Contemporary Marxism Abroad, Fudan University, The Center for Christian Studies, Fudan University.

This paper will try to analyze a curious intellectual phenomena: a group of Jewish-German authors that developed, during the Weimar Republic, a radical anti-capitalist and anti-protestant argument, directly inspired by Weber's Protestant Ethic. They did not hesitate to denounce capitalism as a sort of diabolic religion (Ernst Bloch, Walter Benjamin), or as the product of the evil ethical tendencies of Calvinism (Ernst Bloch, Erich Fromm).

[See also logos journal, Vol. 9, Issue 1 (2010), not paginated]