

Abstract

Titel:

Calvin and the Pursuit of Universal Ethical Principles

Content:

In his well-known work on *Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Max Weber described the building of an “iron cage” of discipline and internalized virtues. The essay compares Calvin’s rule in Geneva to the rigid rule of Islamist organizations in Middle Eastern cities. There are some common features concerning the attractiveness of strict rule in times of crisis and upheaval – but in the end, the individualization and universalization of the idea of election create the substantial difference.