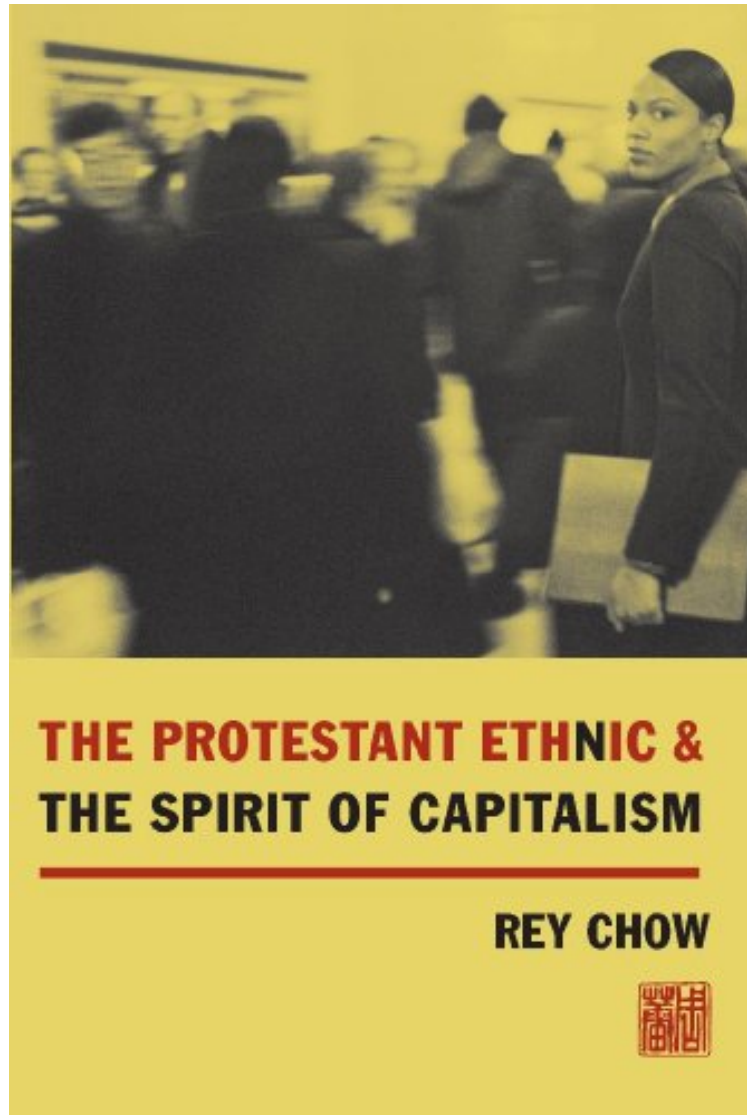


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The Protestant Ethnic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Rey Chow

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Rey Chow : The Protestant Ethnic and the Spirit of Capitalism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Protestant Ethnic and the Spirit of Capitalism:

3 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Ideas and their evolution in a multi-ethnic nationBy Midwest Book ReviewThe Protestant Ethnic The Spirit Of Capitalism by Rey Chow (Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities at brown University), is a meticulously, scholarly, college-level study of cross-ethnic representational politics in America and recent capitalistic Western cultures. From the coercive practices of keeping races or classes of people "in their place", to the pervasive and enduring social harm of stereotyping, to the conflicted intersection of religious belief and capitalistic self-preservation, The Protestant Ethnic The Spirit Of Capitalism is an impressively thoughtful and

thought-provoking study of fundamental ideas and their evolution in a multi-ethnic nation. Also available in a hardcover edition (0231124201, ...), *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* is a seminal and important addition to Ethnic Studies academic reference collections and supplemental reading lists. 1 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Convalescent writing and organization; as well as indirect assertions. By Baby Boy This book is rather boring and rather "inside." The main focus of the book is to call out other writers/thinkers and then assert it's own ideas. This is rather chore some for the writer, and even more so for the reader. The Author rarely makes a blatant assertion, and the subtle argument can only be seen once you read the chapter in it's entirety. The biggest problem I had with this book was that the Author used quotes to drive her point, yet her point was never stated; instead the point was to be inferred from the quotes and the way she used them. If you want to get a feeling for the author's writing style I'd suggest you read Joane Nagel's "New Tribalisms The Resurgence of Race and Ethnicity." Her writing style is very similar to Chow's and show's how sources are used/quoted heavily. The only difference being that because Nagel's piece is shorter she has a more blatant assertion, as opposed to Chow's assertions which are more covert than the Taliban.

In late-capitalist Western society, cross-ethnic cultural transactions are an inevitable daily routine. Yet, according to acclaimed cultural critic Rey Chow, the notion of ethnicity as it is currently used is theoretically ambivalent, confusing, indeed self-contradictory, straddling as it does an uneasy boundary between a universalist rhetoric of inclusion on the one hand, and actual, lived experiences of violence and intolerance on the other. To drastically reconceptualize ethnicity in the contemporary world, Chow proposes that it be examined in conjunction with Max Weber's famous theory about the Protestant work ethic and capitalism, which holds that secular belief in salvation often collaborates effectively with the interpellation, disciplining, and rewarding of subjects constituted by specific forms of labor. The charged figure that results from such a collaboration, resonant with the economic, psychological, and spiritual implications of the word "protest," is what she refers to as the protestant ethnic. Chow explores the vicissitudes of cross-ethnic representational politics in a diverse range of texts across multiple genres, including the writings of Georg Lukacs, Michel Foucault, Max Weber, Jacques Derrida, Fredric Jameson, Etienne Balibar, Charlotte Bronteuml;, Garrett Hongo, John Yau, and Frantz Fanon; the films of Alfred Hitchcock, Marguerite Duras, and Alain Resnais; and the cartoon drawings of Larry Feign. Tracing out hauntingly familiar scenarios from stereotyping and coercive mimeticism to collective narcissistic abjection, the rise of white feminist racial power, and intraethnic resentment, Chow articulates a series of interlocking critical dialogues that challenge readers into hitherto unimagined ways of thinking about an urgent topic.

Chow's discussion of the concept of 'ethnicity' in a late-capitalist Western society presents a creatively refreshing perspective on the contradictions and conflicts of this taken-for-granted concept. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*... should challenge others who have long studied race and ethnic relations. (Susan R. Takata International Migration)Chow's critical vigilance results in a welcome and acute exposure of the invidious endorsements of racism that can characterize contemporary multiculturalism: tolerance, demeaning inclusion and tokenistic recognition... the book... illuminate[s] and enliven[s] ongoing debates. (David Parker Ethnic and Racial Studies)There is nothing consolatory...one is faced simply with the imperative to think harder and better about the problems that face back from the surface of the world. (Eric Hayot Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, s) "This book makes me laugh, cry, and think harder than any other. Never an inscrutable Chinese, far more than a protestant ethnic, and always ruthlessly honest, Rey Chow deserves a gold star for taking on the sacred cows of our academic and public lives. This disarming book should be read by all who are concerned with the future of human rights, liberalism, multiculturalism, identity politics, and feminism." -- Dorothy Ko, professor of history, Barnard CollegeAbout the AuthorRey Chow is Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities at Brown University. She is the author of many books, including *Primitive Passions*, which dealt with contemporary Chinese cinema and won the James Russell Lowell Prize, the most prestigious book award given by the Modern Language Association. She lives in Providence, RI.