Max Weber's Theory of the State: An Introduction

Yasuo Hasebe

Max Weber has been regarded as a model of social scientist, not only in the post-WWII Japan but also in the West generally. However, his elitist view of democratic politics in the inevitably bureaucratised modern society or his post-Nietzschean view on value subjectivism in the disenchanted modern world has not been widely understood. This article tries to sketch his theory of the modern state, in particular, in view of his sociological methodology and his theory of legitimacy of rulership.