

Economy and Society: Foundations of Interpretive Sociology, by Max Weber. Translated by Vlad Ovidiu Cioacă; Introductory Study by Prof. Cătălin Bordeianu; Preface by Prof. Dumitru Otovescu. Craiova: Beladi Publishing House, 2025-. 3 vols., 1597 pages.

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The publication in Romanian of *Economy and Society. Foundations of Interpretive Sociology* by Max Weber, issued by Beladi Publishing House (Craiova, 2025), represents a major editorial and scholarly event for Romanian sociology. In a contemporary academic environment increasingly shaped by bibliometric pressures and by the near-exclusive valorization of articles indexed in international databases, the initiative to translate and publish a canonical work of classical sociology may appear, at first glance, marginal or even anachronistic. In reality, it restores one of the university's essential missions: ensuring critical and systematic access to the major theoretical constructions that underpin the social sciences.

The reduction of scholarly output to the performative logic of high-impact-factor articles has generated, over recent decades, a series of epistemic imbalances: excessive fragmentation of knowledge, the marginalization of comprehensive theoretical syntheses, and a gradual weakening of dialogue with the classical tradition. Within this context, the translation of Weber's foundational work is not merely a cultural gesture, but also a methodological and pedagogical one, reminding us that sociology, as a reflexive discipline, is constituted through constant engagement with its own foundations.

The enduring relevance of Weber lies precisely in the analytical robustness of his core concepts—social action, rationality, domination, legitimacy, ethics—which continue to provide indispensable tools for understanding late modernity. As this edition clearly demonstrates, the classics of sociology do not belong solely to the past; on the contrary, they continue to structure interpretations of the present, provided they are read with conceptual rigor and contextual awareness.

Special mention must be made of the coordinator of this editorial project, Professor Dumitru Otovescu, whose contribution goes beyond organizational efforts and reflects a sustained commitment to the cultivation of classical and theoretical sociology within the Romanian academic space. Equally noteworthy is the translation carried out by Vlad Cioacă, based directly on the German original, distinguished by terminological precision and conceptual fidelity—an essential achievement given the density and complexity of Weber's theoretical architecture. The introductory study authored by Cătălin Bordeianu provides a solid interpretive framework, facilitating both an understanding of the intellectual context and an appreciation of the work's contemporary relevance.

Finally, the academic and symbolic patronage of the University of Craiova lends this endeavor a welcome degree of institutional legitimacy, demonstrating that investment in the translation and dissemination of classical works remains a fundamental university responsibility.

Taken as a whole, this Romanian edition of *Economy and Society* constitutes a significant contribution to the consolidation of sociological culture in Romania and an indispensable reference for researchers, academics, and students concerned with the theoretical foundations of sociology. It is, without question, one of those editorial achievements whose intellectual impact will continue to resonate over the long term.

