

Social Class, Religion, and Power (Christiano et al., chapter 5)

The ideas of Marx and Weber (discussed earlier) have influenced sociologists' research on the connection between class and religion in American

Much research has focused on how religious affiliation is related to class standing.

Richard Niebuhr: middle/upper classes affiliate with low-tension churches; lower with high-tension sects (that eventually become churches)

Mid-20th Century studies found class/denomination correlations (upper: Episcopalians, Presbyterians, UCC; middle: Lutherans, Methodists; lower: fundamentalists, Holiness).

Researchers on "WASPs" saw religion as part of the elite boundary system (excluding Catholics and Jews)

Another line of research focused on how religion may shape economic life-chances. Critics claimed this research misunderstood Weber's thesis.

Another debate involves the role of the "New Class" (knowledge industry professionals) in reshaping the class/religion connection