Max Weber (1864-1920)

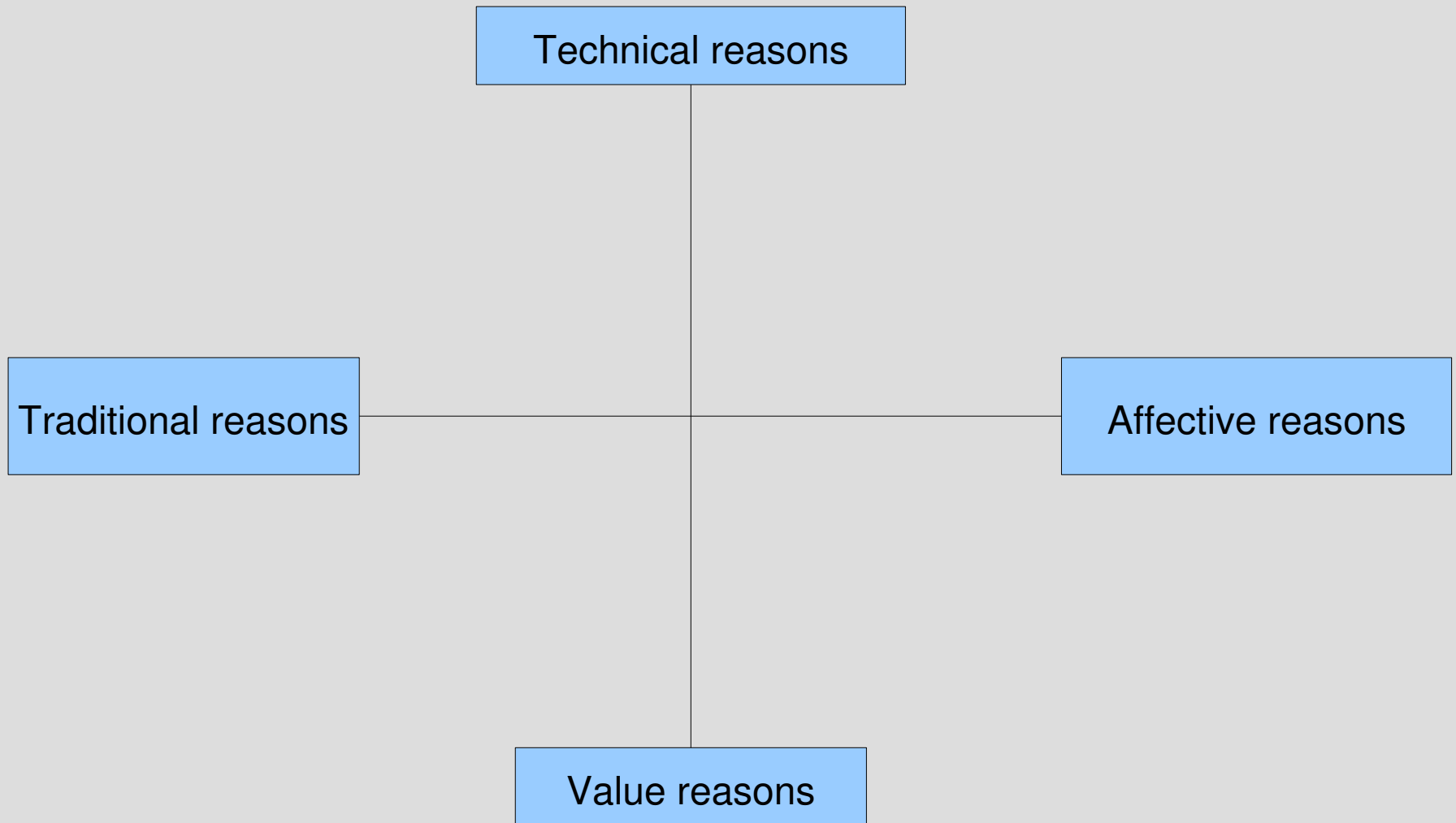Bureaucratization of society

Reasons for Action

Ideal Types

- Technical / purposive Rationality
- Value Rationality
- Traditional Rationality
- Affective Rationality

Proliferation of technical rationality in contemporary societies.

Ideal Types

Technical reasons

Traditional reasons

Affective reasons

Value reasons

The Bureaucracy

- Best suited for large scales and for routine tasks
  - Rule-based
  - Systematized
  - Simplified
  - Routinized
  - Written down
  - Clear hierarchy
- Impersonal approach

Dilemmas of Bureaucratization

- Externally driven v/s internal motivation
- Loss of control
- Dominated by hierarchies
- Closed and difficult to penetrate
- Dehumanizing
- Growth of technical reason and decline of other forms of action

Power in Society

- A Simple Definition:
  - *The ability to achieve one's will in a social context.*
- Naked domination v/s authority
- Culture as the basis of authority
- Class
- Status groups
- Parties

Social Groupings and Power

- Three sociological axes which motivate people:
  - Economic Axis – class
  - Cultural Axis – status groups
  - Political Axis – parties and associations
- These three influence each other, but cannot be reduced to each other

MAJOR THEORETICAL ISSUES

- Functionalism: What keeps societies interconnected? e.g. work of Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons
- Conflict theorists: What leads to conflict in society? e.g. work of Karl Marx, Max Weber, Anthony Giddens, etc.
- The conservative v/s constructive orientation