Summarize Max Weber's account of the two kinds of “ethics” and then relation to politics

(How does Weber define politics and the state?) Which of the two ethics better applies to Captain Voer? Dr. Stockmann? Support your answers.

The speech *Politics as a Vocation*, by Max Weber, delivered at Munich University in 1918, drew on Weber’s political ethics and concepts. Max Weber was a German economist and sociologist. This speech described the various possibilities of political action that could be taken and the relationship between ethical scruple and sound politics. In the play, *An Enemy of the People*, by Henrik Ibsen, Captain Horster and Dr. Stockmann represented the ethics of conviction and responsibility. This play was a good example of the ethics displayed in the speech, *Politics as a Vocation*. The characters represented the two different ethics.

Occasionally politics will force one into areas where they may not feel comfortable. Politics can be morally dubious. Max Weber had a clear distinction in *Politics as a Vocation*, between the ethic of conviction and the ethic of responsibility. This distinction is best understood as a distinction between mutually exclusive ethical world views. The ethic of conviction established a given hierarchy of values. The ethic of responsibility illustrated value obligations. Max Weber connected the words of Martin Luther to morality and the vocation of politics. “Who does not know, that a prince is a rare bird in heaven?” (Luther) Weber wanted to provoke the same type of sentiment within other observers of contemporary political life. Machiavelli illustrated wisdom in admonishing his prince to prepare for the entry into the evils of his vocation. He taught him ‘how not to be good.’ *Politics as a Vocation* explored both of Weber’s ethics.

Weber believed in Trotsky’s statement, “Every state is founded on force” (274, Trotsky). He believed that a state needed force. “If no social institutions existed which knew the use of violence, then the concept of ‘state’ would be eliminated, and a condition would emerge that could be designated as ‘anarchy,’ in the specific sense of this word” (274, Weber). There is a strong relationship between the state and violence, according to Weber. The state is considered the sole source and it has the right to use violence.