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**A two page summary of chapter 8**

There was an enormous success in natural science during the eighteenth and nineteenth century and it affected the social and intellectual life of the social and intellectual life of the people of Europe to the extent they started trusting the words of scientists and sometimes even asked for their opinions on matters unrelated to science.

The Socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. This is because it marked as a period when people started a revolution of return to the Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion.

The intellectual community at the time saw this as a threat to human survival so they started literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusions. This period was the romancism.

Romancism was what gave rise to humanism and naturalism. Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. Not until a French philosopher; August Comte who was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern and this behavior can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made.

Positivism rejects thoeritcal speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestations either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institutions,norms and such interactions created. There are disciplines in social science some of which include; Sociology, Psychology, Economics, etc.

Social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study.

The philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiousity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or inevitable due to the methodoligical mismatch.

One of the essential features of sciences and scientific explanation is to provide a casual connection between an event and its causes.

According to Francis Offor; The principle of cause and effect states that for event in the universe, there is a set of conditions such that if the conditions are all fufilled, then the event invariably occurs. The principle states that for every event in the universe, there's always a cause.

Reason and cause can be substitute for one another loss of meaning. When applied to human activities, the problems become deeper in the sense that it becomes hard to decipher the reason why the action is carried out.

Some scholars insist that reasons can be treated as causes. A problem with social science is that methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill and other sentimental features that come into play in his actions and reactions.