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COURSE: HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE

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Question: In not more than 2 pages, do a review of Chapter 8 of Temidayo D . Oladipo and Noah O . Balogun, history of Philosophy and Science : A brief survey .

Answer :

The Two chapters enlightens us on the brief History of Philosophy of social sciences and Applied sciences . It is known to us that the positive response to science happened as a result of a change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue is called “Positivism”. These social changes began to grow in renaissance period and the enlighten period . The aeon prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it marked a period when people started a revolution return to their Greek heritage of using reason matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was the time religious belief reigned supreme . From the chapter, it is brought to our notice that before any of the periods , people made their decisions and beliefs based on religion and religious deities. Diseases were said to be the direct consequence of sin and idolatry not Cause and Effect . for example , Pope’s words were the final authority on any matter be it political, social or Economical.

The society saw this particular attitude as a threat to human happiness and survival so they started infiltrating literature with benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates , Plato and Aristotle did . This gave rise to a period of “Romantism “which involves humanism and naturalism . This period brought about the diminishing authority of the church and the increasing authority of science . This led to the growth of individualism as men still had discipline , intellectual, moral, and political thinking from the renaissance period . The effect was overwhelming and science gradually began to sprout out from philosophy but it was only a mere study of natural phenomenon until a French philosopher by the name Sir August Comte thought other wise . He made various speculations and inquires about positivism and using the various facts of observation ;

1. Observations are concept- laden .
2. Observations are hypothesis –laden.
3. Observations are value- laden .
4. Observations are interest-laden
5. Observations are theory-laden
6. Observations are laden with culture specific ontologies .

He then gave birth to social science

Social science therefore is an are of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior , interaction and manifestations , either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group of people .

The discipline was aimed at;

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context.
2. Being able to predict human behavior .
3. Discovering and manipulating the laws governing most human behavior etc.

However , the philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to the methodological mismatch since had had different patterns . He gave an illustration using a stone and stated that we could the reason for the stone falling or it being destroyed because it is unconscious and is irrational but the reason for man’s behavior is rational because he is conscious .

**THE PROBLEMS OF REASON AND CAUSES**

This particular theory aims to prove a correlational connection between an event and its causes . That is , to explain why event A is the cause of event B . according to this chapter , for anything to be the cause of another thin , it must ;

1.)Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs , the effect must also occur

2.) Be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause .

Francis Offor a philosopher claims and believes that for every event “B” in the society there must always be a cause “A”. He made reference to an actin which states “I punched him in the face “ . From the statement , we were able to deduce that the reason he punched was because he was angry . He claims that he could have punched his friend because he was happy or jubilating which still abides to to the reason of cause and effect .

 He therefore insisted that it should be called a motive or intent .and illustrated and example of a man who went to the supermarket to get canned beef and stated that his intent of going to the shop was to get canned beef . In substitution , it can also be said that his cause of going into the market was to get canned beef .He then stated that if he didn’t get a canned food and then gets a drink .would it still be a cause ? thus making it a problem .

Another problem is that , if reasons are causes, then getting the canned beef must of necessity come before going to the supermarket since causes always procede the effect it cause . thus making a ground of arguments .