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REVIEW OF CHAPTER EIGHT OF THE BOOK HISTORYAND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

This chapter of the book by Temidayo David Oladipo and Noah Opeyemi Balogun talks about philosophy of social sciences and applied sciences. First of all, the success recorded in natural science occurred in the 19th and 18th century. It made big impact on the social and mental life of the then people of Europe that they started accepting the words of scientist. This brought about positivism, and the social setting in which positivism came about is called the renaissance. The renaissance period was when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time. In arts and music were hidden Greek worldviews too. This became known as the classical period of romanticism and it 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 only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. Not until a French philosopher, August Comte thought otherwise. He was the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behavior can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made. This was the beginning of social science. This chapter also talks about the shortcomings of positivism which are; observation are concept-laden, hypothesis-laden, theory-laden, value-laden, interest-laden, and laden with culture-specific ontologies. However 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. Disciplines in the social sciences include; sociology, psychology, economics, political science, and archaeology. Social science has its objectives and they are; understanding humans in both historical and cultural development, being able to predict human behavior, influencing human behavior, discovering and manipulating if possible the laws governing most of human behavior, and advancing beyond armchair philosophy. 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 methodological mismatch. Lastly, this chapter also talks about the problems of social sciences. They are problem of reason and causes and problem of human person as object of study. Note, to understand the problem of reason and causes, you need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or co relational connection between an event and its cause. The second problem which is that of human person as object of study, according to Max Weber says that methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social is man, a rational being with free will, desires, emotions, and other sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. It brought about the law of demand and supply. The law of demand which is the higher the price the lower the quantity demanded and vice versa. But it was observed by economist themselves that these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time.