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**Chapter 8**

The eight chapter begins with the emphasis on the significance of science in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Europe. Science was so significant to the people of Europe to the point people started trusting the opinions of scientists on matters that weren’t even science related e.g. law and forensic evidence. All of this was possible as a result of change in the socio-cultural milieu of that particular era and from then on the application of science to any issue was called positivism. This grew in the renaissance and enlightenment period. The name renaissance was adopted as a way to show that people had started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not that dictate of religion as it was in the age before to this time.

The age before the renaissance was called the Dark Age because at this time religion was the supreme base of reaching conclusions. This was a period where people were burned because churches found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. The intellectual community saw this as immoral and infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at conclusions. This gave birth to the classical period of romantism. This brought about humanism and naturalism. The effect was overwhelming and a scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was still restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way, until the coming of a French philosopher called August Comte. He believed that the society behaved in a particular way which could be studied and predicted.

This was the beginning of social sciences. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. This also comes with some shortcomings. First off the problems are observation upon which the basic justification of position came is laden with error. These are errors such as observations are concept-laden, hypothesis-laden, theory-laden, value-laden interest-laden and are laden with culture-specific ontologies. However despite these shortcomings let us explicate on the idea of social science it birthed.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction either as an individual in a society or as a group. Disciplines in social sciences include sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archeology and anthropology. Although it’s history dates back to early philosophers such as St.Agustine, Karl Marx, Thomas Hobles e.t.c. Auguste Compte was still regarded as the father of social sciences. The sole aim of social sciences is to understand humans is both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible. It is also to predict human behavior based on pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms e.t.c. specifically in relation to economic and political activities, it influences human behavior grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct, discovering and manipulating if possible the laws governing most of human behavior and advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperament associated behavior of a person or group. However there exists an incongruity in using scientific enquiry to predict the human and his/her society because we do not behave in the exact way objects of natural sciences.

The problem of reason and causes, to understand this problem it means we need to be able to explain why A is the cause of event B which is the effect. According to David Hume, Earnest Nagel presents Hume’s exposition of the notion of causation. For anything to be the cause of another it must have an invariable or constant relation meaning whenever a cause occurs, the effect must also occur, be spatially contiguous meaning two events must occurs in approximately the same location or at least be related by a chain of events that are spatially linked, be temporally related such that the cause proceeds the effect in time just as the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause, and have an asymmetrical relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be the actual event, which brings about the effect, such that the effect must not be part of the original conditions that are necessary and sufficient for it’s own occurrence.

Another problem related to social sciences is the problem of human person as an object of study in social sciences. According to Max Weber, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with free will, desires, emotions e.t.c. all these factors go against the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws.