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The sociocultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called a Renaissance period because it marked a period in which 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. The aeon prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme. However, the intellectual community at the time saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival. So they started infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do. In arts and music were hidden Greek worldviews too. This became known as the classical period of romanticism. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic

The effect of that manoeuvring was overwhelming. 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 social philosopher called August Comte thought otherwise.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based in facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came in fact with error. These include the facts that:

1. Observations are concept-laden
2. They are hypothesis-laden
3. They are theory laden
4. They are value laden

5. They are interest laden
6. They are laden with culture specific ontologies

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanations of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group including institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Discipline in the social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archeology and anthropology. However, it was Auguste Comte that is regarded as the father of social science. Social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. The objectives of such endeavor include:

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible
2. Being able to predict human behavior based on the pattern of interaction etc
3. Influencing human behavior etc
4. Advancing beyond armchair philosophy etc

To understand this problem with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanations is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause. Although explication of casualty goes back to David Hume, Ernest Nagel presents Hume's exposition of the notion of causation in a bullet form which is endearing to our analysis here. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and the effect must:

1. Have an invariable or constant relation
2. Be spatially contiguous
3. Be temporarily related
4. Have an asymmetrical relation

Another problem with the project of social science is that according to max Weber, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come to play in his action or reaction

