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A DETAILED REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 OF *HISTORY AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE: A BRIEF SURVEY*

This chapter is introduced by explaining the success recorded in natural science in the 18th and 19th century. It sheds a light on how it was enormous on the social and intellectual life of the Europeans. This positive response to science happened as a result of change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and also explains why belief in science is called positivism from then on.

This socio-cultural milieu is called a renaissance period because it marked when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern. The aeon prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the time religious beliefs reigned. It was a time where men and women were burnt because the churches found them guilty of witchcraft. The pope was always the final authority. Diseases were said to be consequences of sin. However, the intellectual community saw it as a big threat to human happiness & survival as people in a community is filled with people with different view and ideologies 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 worldwide views too. This developed as the classical period of romanticism which gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at the same time were also viewed as classic as Russell believed that the modern that is commonly known has a mental outlook which is different from that of the medical period in; the diminishing authority of the church and the increasing authority of the church led to the growth of individualism, even to the point of anarchy. The effect of this maneuvering was overwhelming as scientific approach to thing grew out of philosophical approach to issues but science was restricted to the study of natural phenomenon because it was the only material that is believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. Not until a French social philosopher called August Comte who is viewed as the father of sociology till date. He was of the belief that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behavior could be studied and rather accurate prediction made, this was the beginning of social science

This milieu positivism did not accept theoretical speculation that are devoid of fact of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge due to high degree of abstract nature. There a lot of problems in the concepts of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with errors which includes fact like; observations are concept, theory, hypothesis, value, interest and culture specific ontologically laden.

Social science has been considered as 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 mores such interactions created. Discipline in the social science includes sociology, economics, political science, psychology, archaeology and anthropology.

Though the history of the discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how the society works such as St Augustine and the fourteenth century historian Ibn Khaldun; down to Karl Max, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers.

Social sciences seeks to play the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as a study object of endeavor which includes: understanding humans, being able to protect their behavior, persuading their behavior, discovering and manipulation if possible and advancing beyond arm chair philosophy. The philosophy of social science arouse out of curiosity that the central focus and the thrusting motive of social science may be impossible die to methodological misalliance.

Permitted to understand the problem and reason with social sciences better, we need to understand the feature is that a causal connection stuck between an event and it’s cause so for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must; have an invariable relation I.e. whenever the supposed case occurred, the effect must also occur, be specifically contiguous I.e. the both event must occur approximately the same place or linked, be temporarily related such that the case precedes the effect in time just as the effect follows continuously from the cause and lastly, it must have an asymmetrical retain in that occurrence. Bid asserts that by employing this scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seeks to explain the cause of action involving human agents. An example of a man punching another in a gym was given and his reason being that he was angry but the thing is that anger is the reason or cause for him to punch his friend but those two concept can be substituted for each other without loss of meaning. If the reason for something can be many but the cause of something cannot be, to what extent can we take reason for cause, can’t the man punching his friend out of laughter, teasing or in jubilation. This can be solved by accepting reasons are not causes but motive or intent. A good example is if am man goes to buy canned beef and comes back with a soda drink because there wasn't canned beef so in other words, his motive which is to buy canned beef, if we go with the substitution thesis we will say the cause of him going to the market is the effect. Still, what if he get there and didn’t we canned beef and he bought a drink, would we say the cause changed after the effect had already taken place.

One more problem with the project of social science is that according to Max Weber, science methodology becomes unsuitable due to the object of study is rational and free willed, desire, emotions and other sentiment. Take for instance, the law of demand and supply in economics which predicts that humans are rational and will buy more if the price is reduced and buy less if the price increased. This has been observed by economists that these laws hold no time as human behave rationally all the time. At this instance if a theoretical scientific law is neither absolute nor hold quite often, should we proceed to call it scientific laws of economics?