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ASSIGNMENT ON THE REVIEW OF
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BALOGUN, HISTORY AND
PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (AND APPLIED SCIENCE)

To start this review I will like to go back to define philosophy itself

Philosophy has been defined by differently I will like to start by noticing it as an academic discipline in which all ideas are subjected to critical interrogation. It is also seen as a rational inquiry into the fundamentals, it is done through asking of question in the search of understanding, about human beings and their relationship to the world around and about the universe we find ourselves in.

The success recorded in the natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence this positive response to science happened as a result of change in the socio cultural milieu of the time and this explains why beliefs in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism from then on.

It is noted that the socio milieu in which the positivism grew is called the renaissance and enlightenment period because it marked a period when people started 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 age prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the religious belief reigned supreme, the words of the pope was the final authority on any matter, be it political social intellectual. It was a time men and women were burned at stake because the church has found them guilty of practicing witchcrafts or sorcery a time when falling sick meant that you were a sinner,

However the intellectual community at the saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival so they started infiltrating literature with the benefit of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates Plato Aristotle used to do. In the art and music were hidden Greek worldview's too this because known as the classical period of romanticism. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism and work of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic Bertrand Russell puts this more succinctly when he said that the period of history which is commonly called modern has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in many ways

The effect of this 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, that was until a French social philosopher by the name August Comte thought otherwise, he was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behaviour can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made. This is the beginning of social science especially sociology Comte is regarded as the father of sociology and social science in general. That brings us to the next sub heading

WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviours interaction and manifestations either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group including the institutions norms and mores such interactions created disciplines in social science include sociology psychology economics political science archaeology and anthropology. Although the history of the disciplines dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how society work such as St Augustine and the 14th century historian Ibn Khaldun down to Karl max, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers however it was August Comte that was 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 an object of study. For example a stone is not conscious being so it may be3have in a regular and thus predictable way when pushed however a man as conscious and rational being may not behave in the same pattern

THE PROBLEM OF REASONS AND CAUSE

To understand this problem we must consider the connection between an event and its cause. Francis Offor explains that the principle of cause and effect states that for every event in the universe there is a set of conditions such that if the conditions are all fulfilled then the event invariably occurs put differently the principle states that for an event B in the universe there is always a cause A such that B can always be explained by reference to the activities of event A this is the principle that underlies the method of explanation in science for example Mr A was asked why he punched his mate at the gym and he answered

“PUNCHED HIM BECAUSE I WAS ANGRY”

In the statement it is obvious that the event is the push and the cause was because he was angry like he stated.

Anot5her problem with social science according to Max W3eber methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the main study is the study of man a rational being with desires emotions etc. .All these factors undermined the notion of predictably .take for instance the laws of demand and supply in economics which predicts that human as a rational being will buy less when the price is higher and vice versa but it has been noted that sometimes human beings don't operate rationally, now if a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor hold quite often should we continue to call it scientific laws or economical?