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Question: in not more than 2 pages, do a review of chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, History and Philosophy of Science. A Brief Survey Ibadan: Hope Publications. Pg 86-95.

The success recorded in natural sciences in the eighteenth and nineteenth was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientist and even sought their opinion on matters not related to science such as law and forensic evidence. This positive response to science happened as a result of a change in the socio-cultural milieu of that time and this explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue is called POSITIVISM from then on. The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the RENAISSANCE and the ENLIGHTENMENT period. It is said to be called a renaissance period because it marked a period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason as it was in the age prior to this time.

The Aeon prior was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme, the words of the POPE was the final authority on any matter, be it political, social or intellectual. That was a period when men and women were burned at stake because the church had found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. However, the intellectual at that time saw this as a great threat to human survival. So they started organizing literature with the benefits of using reasons to arrive at a justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do.

Bertrand Russell says more succinctly when he said that, "the period of history which is called Modern has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in many ways. And 2 things which are of importance; the diminishing authority of the church and the increasing authority of science. The effect of that maneuvering 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 only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way.

This is the beginning of social sciences, especially sociology and Comte is being regarded till date as father of sociology and social sciences in general. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on 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 problem is **observation** upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. However, irrespective of the shortcomings of positivism, let us explicate on the idea of social science it gave birth to.

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, the institutions, norms and more interaction created. Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as an object of study. There exist an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society. The incongruity states from a fact that human beings do not behave in the exact way objects of natural sciences behave; this is shown in the comparism between a stone and a man.

To understand the problem with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or co-relational relationship between an event and its cause. But first, what does the principle of cause and effects mean? The principle of every 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.

One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. Nonetheless, there are some scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes, one of such scholars is Robin Collingwood who argues to the extreme that reasons are not only causes but they are the ultimate casual power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world may be too naïve to us.

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 of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into being in his actions and reactions. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural sciences is known to deduce their principles and laws, it was on this basic assumption of rational behavior that the law of demand and supply was formulated.