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**DEPARTMENT; LAW**

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**Assignment; In not more than 2 pages, do a brief review of chapter 8 of History and Philosophy of Science; A Brief Survey.**

**CHAPTER 8; Philosophy of Social Science (and Applied Sciences)**

In this chapter, the writers first gave a brief history of how social sciences came into existence and some founding fathers of social sciences. In their explanation, social sciences came into existence because of the success recorded in the natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Furthermore, science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was only the material things that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. But August Comte a French Philosopher was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and behaviour can be studied with accurate predictions made. This is how social sciences came into existence and August Comte is being regarded as the father of social sciences.

However, social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestation either as an individual in a society including the institutions, norms, etc. The disciplines in the social sciences includes; economics, archaeology, political science, etc. The philosophy of social sciences came out of the curiosity that the central focus of social science may be unachievable due to a methodological mismatch.

Philosophy of social sciences to have their problems; i) the problem of reasons and causes ii) the problem of human person as object of study in social sciences.

The problem of reasons and causes according to Francis Offor 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. Also, the problem of human person as an object of study in social sciences according to Max Weber it becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions, etc.