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## CHAPTER EIGHT REVIEW

The then people of Europe started trusting the opinion of scientists in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries because of the success recorded in natural science.

This positive response to science happened as a result in the change of sociology-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science to any issue is called POSITIVISM.

The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called renaissance and enlightenment period.

It is called a renaissance period because it marked a period which people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage or 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 is called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism and works 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. Furthermore, Russell holds that emancipation from the authority of the church that led to the growth of individualism even to the point of anarchy.

The effect of the manoeuvring was overwhelming-scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues but science was restricted to the 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.

This is the beginning of social sciences especially sociology and Comte being regarded till date as the father of sociology and social sciences in general.

What is social science?

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestation either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group.

Discipline in the social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, political sciences, archaeology, anthropology.

To understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between event and its cause.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. Modelled on empirical sciences which provides it with a methodology positivism declares false all propositions that could not be solved or verified by experience such a metaphysical statements due to a high degree of abstract nature.

Observations are laden with culture specific ontologies. However, irrespective of the short comings of positivism let us explicate on the idea of social science it birthed. Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study.

Francis Offor explains that the principle of cause and effect; 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 every 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 of science. He further explains that by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents. To make this clearer let us imagine Mr A makes this statement upon seeing some of his friends who demands to know why he punched one of them at the gym. And the man says: I punched him because I was angry. Even when we see causation from purely mechanistic angle as presented by Nagel. Nonetheless there are some other scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes one of the scholars is Robin Collingwood who argues to the extreme that reasons are not only causes but they are the ultimate causal power which lies in human and that ascribing power to inanimate things and objects not the physical may be too naive for us.

Another problem with the project of social sciences 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 free will, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his actions and reactions