NAME: EMERENINI ABIGAIL CHISOM

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WORK TO DO: 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.*

ANSWER:

This chapter talks about social science how it came about the meaning and the problems concerning reasons and causes also problems concerning humans as object of study. It starts by given a brief history about social science began, that is; the success recorded in natural science in the 18th and 19th century which was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the Europeans whom started trusting the word of scientist and even sought their opinions on matters like law and forensic evidence, their positive response to science has a result of a change in socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew and is called renaissance and the enlightenment period because it marked when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matter of public concern and not dictate of religion as it was in the prior age. The intellectual community saw it as a threat, so they started infiltrating literature, this became classical period of romanticism which gave rise to humanism and naturalism. Bertrand Russell points out the different mental outlook between modern and medieval period which is: the diminishing authority of the church and the increasing authority of science. Russell holds that emancipation from the authority of the church led to the growth of individualism even to the point of anarchy, the effect was said to be overwhelming. The scientific approach of this grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena, not until August Comte was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much lie material things and this behavior can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made, this is the beginning of social science and August Comte is regarded as the father of social science.

Then the chapter defines what is social science which is “an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or as a group; including institutions, norms, and mores such as interactions created” and its disciplines which are: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology. It also points out that philosophy of social science arouses out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible due to methodological mismatch.

Furthermore, it tries to explain the problem of reasons and causes where 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 events invariably occur. Social science seeks to explain the cause of action involving human agents. It is seen that some causes for some actions can have multiple reasons if the reason for something can be many but the cause of something cannot be, to what extent can we take reasons as causes? One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent but some scholars like Robin Collingwood insist that reasons can be treated as causes because reasons are not only causes but they are ultimate casual powers which lies in human and that ascribing casual power to inanimate things and object in the physical world may be too naïve of us, I strongly agree to this because there is no how Mr. A would have just punched his friend without being angry just like you can just slap your friend.

Also, the problem of human person as object of study in social science, 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 scientist features that come into play in his action or reaction, all these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles of law. Simply put that human desires as well as emotions are not always rational for there are sometimes that humans will have to do things that cost them but still have to in other to fulfill some rightful decisions.

In conclusion, social science aimed at studying human behavior, interaction and manifestations. This chapter aimed at explaining what social science is it problems and its history.