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**LAW**

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**PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)**

Then in Europe, the records on natural sciences were enormous, which made the people believed so much in scientists’ words. Positivism came as a result of positive response from the people. Positivism grew in socio-cultural mileu period called renaissance and enlightenment period. The period when the people of Greek started a revolution against the government for individual liberty and religious tolerance. Dark ages were known as the period before renaissance period because religious belief reigned supreme. Pope was the final authority. Issues came up like; diseases was believed to be as of punishment to bad people, men and women were burned because the church has found them guilty, heathens were exterminated. Intellectual community saw these as threats and decided to introduce literature to use it to justify the conclusions. Arts and music were hidden Greek worldviews too. This period was known as classical period of romanticism.

Romanticism gave rise to naturalism and humanism. Works produced at that time were called classic. According to Bertrand Russell, there is a clear difference between the modern and medieval period. Two of the differences are the diminishing authority of the church and increasing authority of the science. Also, the freedom from the authority of church led to individualism which led to anarchy. Discipline, intellectual, moral and political, were associated with minds of renaissance men and women with scholastic philosophy and Christianity government.

Science was only focused on natural phenomena because only it can behave regularly and is predictable. August Comte thought otherwise that human society also behaves in a regular pattern and similar predictions made. He is regarded as the father of sociology or social science. Any knowledge or speculations that are not obtained through experience is false as believed in the concept of positivism. There are various problems attached with this ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. One of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error.

**WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE:** This is the study of human behavior, interactions and manifestation either as individual or as a group. E.g sociology, political science, psychology, economics, etc. some social thinkers include August Comte, Karl Max, John Locke, St Augustine, Thomas Hobbes, Emile Durkheim, etc. sociology adopts scientific in its study. Its objectives include; understanding human behavior, to predict human behavior, to influence human behavior, to discover laws guiding human behavior, and to advance beyond armchair philosophy. Philosophy is interested in social science because it doubts if their aim can be achieved due to methodological mismatch. Compared to natural science, human as conscious and rational being does not behave the same way, which will affect the predictions.

**THE PROBLEM OF REASONS AND CAUSES**

One feature of science is to prove the correlational connection between cause and effect. This would help in knowing the problems of social sciences. According to David Hume, Ernest Nagel presents Hume’s exposition of the notion of causation in a bullet form which is endearing to our analysis here. Therefore, for anything to be the cause of another, they both must be:

* Invariable; when the cause occurs, the effect must follow.
* Spatially contiguous; the two events must happen at the same location or linked together by a chain of events.
* Temporally related; the cause precedes then effect follows continuously.
* Asymmetrical relation; the cause must be the actual event and not that the effect will be part of the original conditions necessary for its own occurrence.

Francis Offor explains this point further, “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 occurs.” This principle underlies that, “by employing scientific method in social investigation, social science seeks to explain the cause of action involving human agents.” Causes and Reasons confuses humans as they take the two to be the same. One way this problem can be solved is to accept reasons are not causes but ‘motive’ or ‘intent.’ Scholars like August Comte, J.S Mill and T.M Newcomb have argued that reasons can be left as motive, drive and intent and not causes. Scholars like Robin Collingwood argued to the extreme that reasons can be treated as causes. And according to him, Robin, ascribing causal power (reasons) to inanimate objects it too naïve.

**THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN PERSONS** **AS OBJECT OF STUDYIN SOCIAL SCIENCES**

According to Max Weber, methodology of social science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study is a man, who is a rational being with emotions, feelings, freewill, desires, etc. All these features affect the predictability of behavior. E,g the law of supply and demand in economics: the higher the demand, the higher the price, and the higher in supply, the lower in price(known as market force). This law does not apply to every human being. If a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor hold quite often, should we continue to call it scientific laws of economics? These are questions that philosophers still argue on.