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**QUESTION: REVIEW CHAPTER 8 – PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)**

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

**The record made in natural science between the eighteenth and nineteenth century made a great impact on the social and intellectual life of the people of Europe which made them believe the words of scientists. A difference in the sociocultural milieu at that period led to the positive response to science and this explains why positivism is referred to as the belief in science of its application to any issue.**

**The renaissance period which marked a period when a revolution began and during this period was the sociocultural milieu in which positivism grew. The very long period before the renaissance period was known as the dark ages because religious beliefs was the highest authority. The words of the Pope was ultimate. During this period, people were burned at stakes just because the church found them guilty.**

**During the renaissance period, literature became prominent. This because the classical period of romanticism which have headway to humanism and naturalism as classical works of art were produced during this period. Bertrand Russell believes that “emancipation from the church led to the growth of individualism even to the point of anarchy” which means people started believing in things based on what they thought and not what the church deemed right. Scientific approach to things began to grow as science was limited to the study of natural phenomena since it was the only material that was believed to behave in a predicted manner.**

**A French social philosopher, August Comte had a differing opinion. He believed the attitude of the society is in a regulated pattern and this behavior can be studied. This marked the beginning of social sciences.**

**Positivism brought with it shortcomings as it rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. Notwithstanding the problems accompanying positivism, it brought about the idea of social science.**

**WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?**

**Social science is that aspect of study that deals with the explanation of human behavior, interactions either as an individual or a society as a whole. Fields of study in social sciences include; Sociology, Economics, Political science, Archaeology to name a few.**

**The origin of the discipline can be traced back to early philosophers who were interested in studying how the society works, philosophers such as St. Augustine, Ibn Khaldun, Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes among others. Basically, Auguste Comte is regarded as the father of social sciences.**

**Social science aims at employing the method of science in the inquiry into social phenomena, using humans as case study. With it comes objectives such as; Understanding humans, being able to predict human behavior, influencing human behavior, discovering the laws governing most human behaviors and it’s possible manipulations, etc.**

**To enable better understanding of the problem of reasons and causes in social science, one must understand that an essential characteristic of science is to give a correlation or causal between an event and its cause.**

**Before going further into this relation between cause and event, what does the principle of cause and event imply?**

**The idea of cause goes back to David Hume, however, Ernest Nagel gives Hume’s exposition of the notion of causation in a bullet form which is endearing to analysis. Francis Offor further explains this point in his own words.**

**Some scholars insist that reasons can be seen as causes. One of those scholars include Robin Collingwood who further argues that reasons are not only causes but are the ultimate causal power which lies in humans and that ascribing causal power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world may be to obnoxious of us.**

**Another problem related with social sciences is that methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science is man, according to Max Weber. All these factors mentioned undermine the notion of predictability of behavior which natural science is known to deduce their laws and principles and this can be closely related to the law of demand and supply in economics.**