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**COURSE: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

**TOPIC: A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 OF TEMIDAYO D. OLADIPO AND NOAH O. BALOGN, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE: A BRIEF SURVEY. IBADAN: HOPE PUBLICATIONS**

 The success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of the scientists and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to the science such as law and forensic evidence.

 The effect of that maneuvering was overwhelming. Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to 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.

 There are a lot of problems with this ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. These include the facts that:

1. Observation are concept-laden
2. Observation are hypothetical-laden
3. Observation are theory-laden
4. Observation are value-laden
5. Observation are interest-laden
6. Observation are laden with culture-specific ontologies

 However irrespective of the shortcomings of positivism, let us explicate on the idea of the social science it birthed.

 **SOCIAL SCIENCE:** is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestation, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institution, norms and mores such interactions created.

**THE PROBLEM OF REASONS AND CAUSES**

To understand this problem with social science, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its causes. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must:

1. Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever that alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur
2. Be spatially contiguous, that is, the two event must occur in approximately the same location or at least be related by a chain of events that are spatially linked
3. Be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect in time just as the effects must follow continuously from the cause
4. Have an asymmetrical relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be actual event, which brings about the effect, such that the effect must not be part of the original conditions that are necessary and sufficient or its own occurrence.

 **THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN PERSON AS OBJECTOF STUDY IN SOCIAL SCIENCE**

 Another problem with the project of social science 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 freewill, desires, emotions and other sentiment features that come into play in his action or reaction.