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 **REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE authored by**

**INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the author talks about the science as the **“philosophy of social science and applied science”** which takes us back to the eighteen and nineteen century where there was a success in natural science which really affected the social and intellectual lives of the people in Europe then;. Which made them believe and trust the words of the scientist on both scientific and unscientific matters such as laws and forensic evidence. Also, the positive response of science was as a result of the change of the social-cultural background at that time which made the application of science to be seen as **positivism**; this period in which positivism grew was called the renaissance and enlightenment period. This period was the period in which people practiced their Greek heritage and the abandoning of the dictate period also known as the religious period which was prior to this period and the long period of time before the renaissance period. The renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the period religious belief r; the words of the pope was final in any matter be it political, economic or religion. In this period, men and women were burnt at stake because the church has found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery, diseases were also seen as a way of punishment of sin and idolatry. However, the intellectual community saw this as a big treat to the happiness of humanity so they started writing artistic and literature woks which brought about the classical age or romanticism which gave rise to humanism and naturalism. Works which were written in this periods were called “**classics”**. Also, Bertrand Russell tells us when he said that “the period of history which is seen as “modern” has a mental outlook which differs from the medieval period (Dark Age) in so many ways. The two most important features of these period are the decrease authority of the church and the increasing authority of science.

Russell tells us that the authority of the church lead to the growth of individualism and to the point of anarchy. Furthermore, scientific approach of things grew out of philosophical approach to issue but science was restricted to the study of natural phenomenon because it was predictable but this changed when August Comte gave his opinion that the society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things which can be studied and given accurate permissions of associated behaviour of a person or group; which brings about Comte being the father of social science and sociology. According to the author, positivism does not deal with speculations that are not backed up by facts but rather with empirical science which provides it with methodology, positivism declares false and s positivism can always make error.

**WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE**

Social science deals with the study of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations either collectively or ass a group of people; including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Disciplines in the social life include political science, economics, and psychology. This discipline started with early philosophers such as St. August, Ibn khaldum and down to Karl max, Thomas Hobbes etc. however, August Comte is seen as the father of social science. Social science deals with the investigation of social phenomenon which takes humans as the subject of study. On the other hand the philosophical study of social science was seen to be impossible because of the belief that man is not predictable thus having a conscious and rational behaviour which cannot be predicted some times.

**THE PROBLEM OF REASON AND CAUSE.**

According to the author, to understand social science we need to know that one of the features of science is that it provides a causal connection between an event and its cause; which is the reason for and event and its effects. Also the principle of cause and effects and effects states that 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 state that for every event “B” in the universe, there is always a cause “A” such that “B” can always be explained by references to the activities of event “A”. Francis Offor further said that if we apply this to social science we can come to the cause and reason for a particular situation; for example if Mr A is going to the market to buy corn beef, the reason for the going to the market is for corn beef and the cause is the effects of going to the market and if the is no corn beef we will say the cause changed after the effect has already taken place. Another problem is that if reason are causes, then getting the canned beef must be a necessity before going to the supermarket since cause always preside the effects the cause. Thus the scholars like J. S. Mill, T. M. Newcomb and August Comte had argued weather it is not better to leave reason as motive, but scholars like Robin Collingwood still saw reason as cause.

**THE STUDY OF HUMANS as OBJECTs IN SOCAIL SCIENCE.**

Another problem of social science is that according to Max Weber, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the subject of matter or study is man; a rational being with conscience, freewill, desire and emotions. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour. For instance the law of demand and supply in economics which predicts that humans as rational beings will always buy the goods with the cheaper price or less price than buying the ones with the higher price. In this case, the law of demand and supply can be brought to mind; the higher the price the lower the demand and the higher the price the higher the supply. This is also referred to as market force. But economist have confirmed that these laws do not mater all the time because humans always make their own choices; for example if one should buy n iPhone or an Android he or she have to download some apps in order to us it and if any of these app expires or is outdated the app always forces the user to update in order to use it again in which him or her does not have a choice which make the law of demand and supply unfulfilled. In conclusion, the study of social science may seem impossible because of its subject of study **“man”** which is not predictive in some circumstances.