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A Review of Chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah

O. Balogun, *History and Philosophy of Science.*

*Basically chapter 8 is telling us about the existence of science/social science and its success in the eighteenth and nineteenth century.*

*Firstly, how do we define social science? It’s an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations. Now back in the eighteenth and nineteenth century science received a positive response as a result of a change in the socio-cultural environmental condition (milieu) of the time, reason why the application of science to any giving issue was called positivism.*

*Therefore, the socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and enlightenment period,*

*reason being it marked a period when people started a revolution of returning to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time.*

*The chapter went deep into also explaining the dark ages when religious belief belief reigned supreme, the words of the pope was the final authority on any matter. People saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival, so they started infiltrating literature with benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do.*

*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. He was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behaviour can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made, this is the beginning of Social Science.*

*As explained in the beginning has major disciplines such as; sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and finally anthropology. Social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as an object of study, however the philosophy of science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch.*

*This chapter also made reference to the problem of reasons and causes which states that for every event ‘B’ in the universe, there is always a cause ‘A’ such that ‘B’ can always be explained by reference to the activities of event ‘A’ . it also spoke about the problem of using human person as object of study in social science saying that the methodology of science becomes inapplicable because man is a rational being of freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction.*

*In conclusion, this chapter states the beginning of positivism during the eighteenth – nineteenth century to the birth of social science and problems associated with it.*