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**Assignment Title:** REVIEW CHAPTER 8  
**Course Title:** HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE  
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**Question**

In not more than 2 pages, do a review of Chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, *History and Philosophy of Science: A Brief Survey.* Ibadan: Hope Publcations. pages 86-95.

The eighth chapter of the book “HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCINCE; A BRIEF SURVEY’ is captioned **Philosophy of social sciences (and applied sciences).** A quick review of previous pages of the book goes a long way in enlightening us on what ‘social science’ and applied science’ really mean.

Therefore, the term social science refers to those disciplines categorized under social science that attempt to apply the methods of natural science to their object of study. Applied science on the other hand refers to those disciplines where discoveries in science are further employed for making inventions that brings some form of comfort to man. In other words, they are called ‘technological science.’

Hence, the chapter of this discourse kicks off by stating the feats recorded in natural science in the eighteenth (18th) and nineteenth (19th) century which was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. This positive response to science happened as a result of a change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism from then on. The ‘socio-cultural milieu’ in which positivism grew is called the **renaissance** and the enlightenment period; it is called so because it marked a period when people started a revolution of return 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 **aeon** prior to the renaissance period was called the ‘dark ages’ because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme. Thereby, making the words of the Pope final on any matter, be it political, social of intellectual. The classic period of **romanticism** gave rise to humanism and naturalism. They made use of infiltrating literature with the benefit of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to.

Scientific 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 predictable way.

Furthermore, Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanantion of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group. Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. The objectives of such endeavor include:

1. Understanding humans both in historical and cultural development.
2. Ability human behaviour based on certain patterns in conjunction with economic and political activities.
3. Influencing human behavior.
4. Discovering and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most of human behavior.
5. Advancing beyond armchair philosophy.

Importantly, the philosophies of social science arouse out of the curiosity the central focus and the propelling motive of social science maybe impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. Also, to under the problem with social science better, 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 cause. According to Ernest Nagel, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must:

1. Have an invariable or constant relation;
2. be spatially contiguous;
3. be temporally related; and
4. have an asymmetrical relation.