* 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 scientist and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence.
* The 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 a renaissance period 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 tie.
* The words of Pope were the final authority on any matter, be it political, social or intellectual.
* Diseases were said to be direct consequences of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens.
* Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and the works of art and literate produced at this time were also regarded as classic.
* A French philosopher Auguste Comte was of the opinion that society behavior in a regular pattern much like material things and the behavior can be studied and somewhat accurate prediction.
* There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error.

WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?

* Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group.
* Social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study.

THE PROBLEM OF REASON AND CAUSES

* For anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must:

\*Have an invariable or constant relation

\*Be equally contagious

\*Be temporarily related

* Offor Francis explains that the principle of cause and effect states that for every event in the universe, there is a set of conditions are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs. He further explains by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents.

THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN PERSON AS OBJECT OF STUDY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

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 sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction.

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CHAPTER 8