GST 118: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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CHAPTER 8: PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)

Naturally Science had an enormous success record in the eighteenth and nineteenth century and it had an effect on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and soughted their opinions on issues relating and not relating to science. The result of a Chang in the sociocultural milieu caused the positive response to science and this is why the belief on science on any issue is referred to as positivism. The sociocultural milieu which positivism grew is called the renaissance and enlightenment period because it marked a period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage while the intellectual community saw it as a big threat to human happiness and survival.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge.

* What Is Social Science?

This is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviors, interactions and manifestations either as an individual in a society and collectively as a group. One of the objectives of Social Science include being able to predict human behaviors based on the pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human behaviors especially in relation to economic and political activities. The philosophy of Social Science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of Social Science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch

The Problem Of Reason And Cause: To understand this problem better we need to understand that one of the essential features of science is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and it’s cause. According to this account for anything to be the cause of another, the effect must: have an asymmetrical relation in that 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 for it’s own occurrence.

* The Problem Of Human Person As Object Of 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 sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction. For example, some Android or iPhone applications are of necessity to buy if you want to use the phone. Now, if a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor hold white often, should we continue to call it scientific laws of economics?.