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**QUESTION**

In not more than 2 pages, do a review on chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, History and philosophy of science: A BRIEF SURVEY.

This chapter is about the “Philosophy of social sciences (and applied science)”. Philosophy of social science is one of the branches of philosophy under the second order discipline. Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interactions and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group. The key to understanding philosophy is having an insight into the activities the practitioners of the discipline have undertaken since its inception. Philosophy is interested in other academic discipline to subject their arms, presuppositions and product to rigorous analysis.

Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. These objectives include;

1) Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development or change.

2) Being able to predict human behavior based on the pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human behavior, especially in relation to economic and political activities.

3) Influencing human behavior; grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct and channeling collective effort towards development.

Although the history of the discipline dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how society works such as St. Augustine and the 14th century historian Ibn Khaldun; down to Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes, and a host of other social thinkers. However, Augustine comte is regarded as the father of social science. The disciplines in the social science include; Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Political science and others.

Under the philosophy of social science, there is a problem of reasons and causes. To understand this problem with social sciences better, one has 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 causes. According to this, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must; have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur. Another one ids that it should be temporarily related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause.

It further talked about the meaning of the principles of cause and effect. Francis Offor said that “the principle of cause and effect 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”. He gave an example 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’. This is the principle that underlies the method of explanation in science. He further asserted that “by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents”. One way to solve the problem is to accept that reasons are not causes but motive or intent.

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 actions or reaction. However, it has been observed even by economists themselves that these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time.