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*PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCES)*

The chapter 8 of the History and philosophy of science is no other but that which emphasizes on the success recorded in natural science in the eighteenth and nineteenth century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the people then in Europe. 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 renaissance period because it is 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. The words of the pope were the final authority on any matter, be it political, social, or intellectual. It was a time men and women were burned at stake because the church has found them guilty of witch craft or sorcery, diseases were said to be direct consequences of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise.

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

To understand this problem with social sciences 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 causes. Offer goes further to assert that, by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents. One of the scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes so Robin Collingwood who argues to the extreme that reasons are not only causes but they are the ultimate casual power which lies in human and that ascribing casual power which lies in human and that ascribing casual power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world maybe too naïve of us. The problem of human persons as object of study in social sciences is that according to Max Weber, Methodology of sciences 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 scientific features that come into play in his action or reaction.