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The positive response to science happened as a result of a change in 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 time. The aeon prior to the renaissance period was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned supreme. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. Discipline, intellectual, moral, and political, were associated in the minds of the men of the renaissance with the scholastic philosophy and ecclesiastical government. A French social philosopher called August Comte was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behaviour can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions. Positivism rejects theorical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group: including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Disciplines in the social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthrology. Although, the history of the disciplines dates back to early philosophers who wanted to study how society works such as St Augustine and the Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and a host of other social thinkers. It was Auguste Comte that is regarded as the father of social science. One of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause. Although explication of causality goes back to David hume, Ernest Nagel presents Hume’s exposition of the notion of causation in a bullet form which is endearing to our analysis here.

Francis offor explains that, ‘’by employing the scientific method in the social investigation ,the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents.one way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. A good example of this is the case of a man who went to supermarket to buy canned beef. In other words, the intent or motive which is to buy canned beef is the cause and going to supermarket is the effect. Thus some scholars like J.S. Mill ,T.M.Newcomb and Auguste Comte have argued on whether it is not better to leave reason as motive ,drive or intent and not cause.

Another problem with the project of social science is that, according to Max Weber, methology 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 senstient features that come into play in his action or reaction.