NAME: ARO RASHEED AYINDE

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ASSIGNMENT:

IN NOT MORE THAN 2 PAGES, DO A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 OF TEMIDAYO D. OLADIPO AND NOAH O. BALOGUN, *HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE: A BRIEF SURVEY.* IBADAN: HOPE PUBLICATIONS. PAGES 86-95.

**PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCE)**

During the eighteenth and nineteenth century, natural science recorded great success in the social life of the people of Europe. Due to the great success they began to trust scientists both on matters relating to law and forensic evidence. All this happened because of the socio-cultural milieu.

 The socio- cultural milieu in which positivism grew is the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is a 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. It was a time men and women were burned at stake because of the church has found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. Diseases were said to be direct consequences of sin and idolatry.

 Moreover, it was seen as a threat to human happiness and survival. In order to arrive at a justified conclusion as Socrates, Aristotle and Plato did, they tried to infiltrate literature. This period became the classical period of romanticism. It gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. Russell holds that “emancipation from the authority of the church led to the growth of individualism, even to the point of anarchy. Discipline, intellectual, moral, and political, was associated in the minds of the men of the renaissance with the scholastic philosophy and ecclesiastical government”

 Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. Father of social science and a French social philosopher August Comte, thought otherwise.

 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. These includes the facts that:

1. Observations are concept-laden.
2. Observations are value-laden.
3. Observations are theory-laden.
4. Observations are hypothesis-laden.
5. Observations are interest-laden.
6. Observations are laden with culture-specific ontologies

 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.

OBJECTIVES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE INCLUDES:

1. Discovering and manipulating if possible the laws governing most of human behavior.
2. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development or change.
3. Advancing beyond armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperament and associated behavior of a person or group, or that exhibited by those engaged in an activity.

THE PROBLEM OF REASON AND CAUSES.

According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must:

1. Be spatially contiguous, that is, the two events must occur in approximately the same location or at least be related by a chain of events that are spatially linked.
2. Be temporarily related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause.

 Nonetheless, there are some other scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes. Another problem is that, if reasons ae causes, the getting the canned beef must of necessity come before going to the supermarket since causes always precede the effects they caused.

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. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws.