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QUESTION

Summarize chapter 8 of history and philosophy of science in two pages

ANSWER

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

 The success recorded in natural science in eighteenth and nineteenth century was so enormous on the social and intellectual life of the then people of Europe that they started trusting the words of scientist and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated 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 issues is called positivism from then.

 Social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study .what is social science ? Social is an area of study dedicated to explanation of human behavior ,interaction and manifestation, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group community the time saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival .So they started infiltrating literature with benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates ,Plato ,and, Aristotle used to do.

 The effect of that maneuvering was overwhelming .Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issue ,but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way.

THE PROBLEMS OF REEASONS AND CAUSES

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 cause. That is, to explain why event A is the cause of event B which is the effect. But first, what does the cause and effect mean? Although explication of casualty 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.

THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN PERSON AS OBJECT OF STUDY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Another problem with the study of social sciences 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 features undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principle of laws.

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