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**DEPARTMENT : BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

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**QUESTION :** 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.

The success recorded in natural science in the eighteen and nineteenth century was so extraordinary on the social and intellectual life than people of the Europe that they started trusting the words of scientists and even sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science such as law.

The socio-cultural milieu which the positivism grew is called Renaissance. It is called Renaissance because it marked a period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage. Also the aeon prior was called the dark ages because it was the time religious belief reigned Supreme. However, the intellectual community saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival. There was hidden Greek worldviews in arts and music too. This was known as the classical period of romanticism. Bertrand Russell puts this more succinctly when he said that “the period of history which is commonly called “modern “. Russell also holds that “emancipation from the even to the point of anarchy.

Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. There are lots of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. The first was the observation of positivism came is laden with error. However, irrespective of the shortcomings of positivism, let talk on the idea of social science. Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviors and interactions. Disciplines in the social science includes : sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archeology, anthropology etc.

However, the philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science.

To understand this problem with the social Sciences better, we need to understand that one of essential features of science. That is, to explain why event A is the cause of event B which is the effect means. It must have an invariable or constant relation, to be spatially contiguous, to be temporally related, etc. And to have an asymmetrical relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be actual event. One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or purpose. For example, the case of a young beautiful lady, goes to the supermarket to get a corn beef and the reason of her going to the supermarket is to get corn beef. If we go with the substitution thesis, we will say the cause of her going to the supermarket is to buy corn beef. In other words, the motive or purpose which is to get corn beef is the cause of going to the supermarket is the effect. But what if she goes to the supermarket and does not find the corn beef, well she might get a soft drink? And another problem is that, if the reasons are causes then getting the corn beef must be of necessity come of before going to the supermarket since causes always precede the effects they caused. Scholars like August Comte have argued on whether it is not better to leave reasons as motive, drive or intent and not cause. Nonetheless, there are some others scholars that insist that reasons can be treated as causes. One of them is Robin Collingwood who argues to the extreme that reasons are not only cause but they are ultimate causal power to non living things and objects in the physical world. Another problem is that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill and desires,, emotions, and other sentient features.

However, it has been observed even by the economists themselves that these laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time. Also, in recent years, capitalists have been able to manipulate consumer behavior to the point.