

Lecture 3- The Origins of Sociology (social fact, social conflict, social action)

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 1:06 PM

1838- Why was sociology invented= Sociology was invented because people were interested in the concept

- Society was the outcome and traded after legislations of citizens

Philosophers

- **Confucius**- he theorized of role modeling and leadership
- **Ibn Khaldun**= examined different societies
- **Shakespeare**= not philosopher but wrote about human behaviour and passions
- **Montesquieu**= human laws and cultural theories (divine inspiration)
- None of them analyzed society as it was but imagined it as an ideal society

Social change and sociology

- 19th century sociology= social transformations (striking and dramatic transformations)
- Sociology was made possible due to these revolutions : (4)
- **Industrial revolution**-the process by which societies transferred from agriculture to manufacturing of goods and services using machines
- **Urbanization**-the process by which an increasing population lived in cities rather than rural areas. Traditional ties to land and way of life was changed
 - Smaller communities, traditions, country side
 - Led to crowded cities, isolation, homelessness, high rates of poverty, criminal behaviour and other social problems that were never seen before
 - Peasants became workers, workers to strangers that worked factories
 - Families and children had to work in hazardous factories in low wages
 - Workers did not get compensation for injuries even if it was caused by work
 - Leading to illegal strikes, angry mobs due to unethical working conditions
 - Novels were created to describe this (ex: Victor's Hugo's Les Misérables)
- **Political revolution/Democratic revolution:** no longer was it an obligation to be loyal to leaders
 - Rights and freedom (thoughts, association)

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- Society was the product of individual self-interest
- The French revolution: liberty, equality, fraternity; demanded political action against mass poverty
- Sociology emerged because political revolution suggested that people can demand for change in society
- **Scientific revolution**
- How did societies change-
 - Modern societies differ from the preceding ones

Scientists

- Auguste Comte
 - Father of sociology
 - Coined the word sociology but preferred the word social physics
 - Sought to invent science of society
 - Concerned about French revolution that weakened social ties
 - Sociology has two branches
 - Social statistics (order and stabilities)
 - Social dynamics (conflict and change)
 - These terms were borrowed from physics (dynamics/statistics)
 - Believed that society also conforms to laws of its own; sociology can uncover these laws
 - Modeled of the natural sciences (physics)
 - Sociology should be modeled by facts instead of analogy and imagination
 - SOCIOLOGY IS IN FACT A SCIENCE
- Emile Durkheim
 - Considered the true founder of the sociology discipline
 - Created the first rules of methods in sociology
 - Brought sociology to university
 - Created first chair in at la Sorbonne in Paris
 - Trained the first students in the discipline
 - Created the first academic sociological journal (L'Annee sociologique)
 - Wrote on education, religion, order and justice, deviance, crime, labour, suicide
 - Introduced statistical analysis
 - He was upset by the lack of social class and anti-Semitism and issues of social order and stability
 - Believed society is more than the sum of its parts
 - Has a unique character of its own; not reducible to the behaviour of any one individual

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- Focus was on SOCIAL ACTION
- Meaningful social action
 - The motives that underlie human behaviour
 - The ways in which people interpret and explain their own behaviour and that of others
 - The way in which these actions and meanings affect the social order
- Verstehen (understanding, insight)
- Importance of ideas, values, and beliefs
- Different sociologists had different ideas of what sociology was and how it can be applied; been brought to schools

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