

The Origins of Sociology: Social Fact, Social Conflict, S

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- None of them attempted to analyze reality of society, just analyzed what an ideal philosophy)
- Sociology only discovered/explored in 1838, before that, only related thing was ph
- Social change and sociology
 - o Industrialization
 - From agriculture and handmade products to manufacturing and relate
 - o Urbanization
 - Population moving from rural areas to cities
 - Breaking traditional ties to land and community, weakening communi
- These lead to new social problems, anonymity, isolation, inadequate housing, crow
- high rates of poverty, criminal behaviour, pollution, etc.
- Strikes, protests, social uprisings, angry mobs clashing with the police/army
- More people had to work, including children, for many hours, children chained to
- American countries roughly a century ago
- Work conditions horrible, no regulation, no protection
- This set up the framework for sociology
- Novels in the 19th century describes the extreme poverty and horrible societal co
- show a better understanding social dislocation
- Political/Democratic Revolutions
 - o Changes in political thought
 - Society as the product of individual self interest
 - New political climate: individual freedom and rights
 - o French revolutions
 - Introduction of a new principle into history by demanding political act
 - poverty
 - *Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity*
 - Telling the king do something because they're starving, suffering was
 - Aristocrats and opponents of the revolution = head chopped off
 - People (not God) responsible for organizing society, and people could
 - Europe scared of the revolution in France in fear
 - First time in human history the King and Queen were executed legally
 - government instead

Social Action

society is (sociology vs

philosophers

ed industries

ties,

wded cities, homelessness

the machines, north

nditions. These books

ion to redress mass

no longer acceptable

change society

and replaced by

GOVERNMENT INSTEAD

- This is when sociology first emerged
- Early sociologists
 - How and why do societies change?
 - What are the social forces holding societies together, creating order and stability?
 - How do modern societies differ from the preceding ones?
- ▶ **Auguste Comte (1798-1857)**
 - Seen as the father of sociology, came up with the term, referred to it as social physics
 - Sought to do a science of society
 - Social statics (order and stability) and dynamics (conflict and change), a rival term was sociology
 - Believed French revolution had weakened social tie in France, wanted to bring order to a lot of people that felt the same way
 - By using laws of nature, extending them to study of society, might discover laws of human behaviour, use knowledge to solve social problems
 - How physical world operates, society also conforms to universal laws
 - Sociological knowledge guided by facts, experimentation, not by imagination (unlike philosophers)
 - This is what set sociology apart, hard science of society
 - He stated it would have mainly 2 branches
 - Was he right?
- ▶ **Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)**
 - Created the first rules of methods in sociology
 - Brought sociology to the university, created the first chair in sociology at la Sorbonne
 - Trained the first students in the discipline
 - Created the first academic sociological journal L'Annee sociologique (1898)
 - Education, religion, order and justice, crime and punishment, suicide, social cohesion
 - Used statistical analysis for studying phenomenon
 - Concerned by the social conflicts brought by the French revolution, thought society was surprised by rise in antisemitism (Jewish, father Rabi)
 - Society is more than the sum of its parts
 - Has a unique character of its own, not reducible to the behaviour of any individual
 - Social facts
 - Patterned ways of acting, thinking, and feeling that exist outside any individual and exert social control over each person
 - Roles, norms, rules, role as a "son, daughter, student, worker" roles with compelling social force, make you act in a predictable way

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 - We internalize these roles, they become taken for granted, ie language, language doesn't depend on any specific individual, depends on a society
 - Mr. Smith needs the English language to survive, but the English language doesn't need Mr. Smith
 - Shows that suicide is a social fact, extremely private act, suicide rate is quite stable overtime
 - Suicide as a social fact
 - Social distribution of suicide and its rate among different groups and countries
 - ◆ For any given country, the suicide rate is stable over time
 - ◆ It also differs wildly among them
 - ◆ Suicide not psychological phenomena
 - ◆ Religion is a main difference between countries (higher in protestant countries than catholic)
 - Social cohesion, found categories of people with

