



Sociology

Sociology and History

Historians study the past; sociologists are more interested in the contemporary or recent past. According to Radcliff Brown sociology is analytical and generalizing while history is descriptive and particularizing. However, there are works of historians which focus on patterns while sometimes sociologists have concerned themselves with the study of unique event. An example of the former is R.H. Tawney , while by Thomas and Znaniecki is as idiographic as any historical study can be. Historical accounts of phenomena like industrial revolution have served as source of data for sociological studies. While, Durkheim influenced Marc Bloch and Lucien Febvre, who laid the foundation of the Annales School of History to study long term social history. Works like Weber and Sorokin , blur the line of demarcation between history and sociology. Marx speaks of historical materialism. Indology as followed by GS Ghurye and Louis Dumont also includes a study of history. As EH Carr put it, the more sociological the history becomes and more historical the sociology becomes, the better it is. Sociology studies society which comprises of social processes - 1. structure study - macro - scientific - quantitative - positivists - scientific method - facts - objectivity - explanation 2. both structure and action study - meso - interpretation method - non positivists - hermeneutical method - F and V - Objective and Subjective - understanding - qualitative and quantitative 3. action study - micro - behavioural method - qualitative - anti positivists - reflexive method - values - subjectivity - imagination Sociology studies continuous behaviour in roles, giving rise to social structures which combine to form the society. If roles do not change, structure and society will not change. Role is also known as action. Sociology has the mandate to study - Role (micro), Structure (meso) and Society (macro) Albion Small - formal school - Sociology does not undertake to study all the activities of society. Every science has a delimited scope. The scope of sociology is the study of the genetic forms of social relationships,

behavior and activities, etc. Criticism of Formalistic School - Sociology is not the only science which studies the forms of social relationships. The study of International law includes, of necessity, the study of such social relationships as conflict, war, opposition, agreement, contact etc. Political science delineates sovereignty and other social relationships. The scope of sociology is further distinguished from other sciences in respect of its different viewpoints. In the words of Green, "The focus of attention upon social relationships makes sociology a distinctive field, however clearly allied to certain others it may seem to be." To quote Bennett and Tumin, "no other discipline states or claims that its primary datum is that of the social aggregation of men." Feminist sociology emerged during 1960s as a radical alternative and offered distinctive gender based explanations. It emphasized centrality of gender in social change. According to them, social reality is viewed differently by the two sexes. The divisions among the various social sciences are not clear cut, and all share a certain range of common interests, concepts and methods. It is therefore very important to understand that the distinctions of the disciplines are to some extent arbitrary and should not be seen in a straitjacket fashion. To differentiate the social sciences would be to exaggerate the differences and gloss over the similarities. Furthermore feminist theories have also shown the greater need of interdisciplinary approach. For instance how would a political scientist or economist study gender roles and their implications for politics or the economy without sociology of the family or gender division of labour. The field of explanatory schemes and models - Both functionalism and social system have been adopted into politics. The forces at work and the changes that are taking place in peasant tribal or caste societies belong more to the sphere of sociologists and anthropologists rather than to that of the political scientist. Power - ability of a person or a group of persons to control or influence the behaviour of others despite their resistance Authority - power vested in given persons through institutions such as office, rank, elections, etc.

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Sociology - stratification of society in terms of power wielded by different groups
Colemans - politics of developing areas are different - Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas
David Easton - a system analysis of political life - 'social system'
Hegel - state is march of God on earth
Family --> Civil Society --> State
Hence, CS ensues proper integration with society and individualism. CS is a transitory phase towards State. Reservation, Pressure groups, national political organization of a society