

HKE SOCIETY's

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The contribution of western Sociologist

- **Sociology emerged in the nineteenth century.**
- **This was a time of great social upheaval due largely to the French and Industrial Revolutions.**



Sociology

- **Sociology** is the scientific study of human society and social behaviour.

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What is Sociology?

- Sociology is an attempt to understand how membership in one's social group affects individual behavior.
- Sociology relies upon paradigms-to investigate society:
Theory, Data, Analysis.



Auguste Comte

Auguste Comte (1798-1857)

- “sociology” term coined by him
- He has developed the “science of man” that would be based on empirical observation
- He has focused on two aspects of society:
 - ***Social Statics***: forces which produce order and stability
 - ***Social Dynamics***: forces which contribute to social change

Harriet Martineau (1802-1876)



Harriet Martineau

- Authored one of the earliest analyses of culture and life in the United States entitled *Theory and Practice of Society in America*
- Translated Comte's *Positive Philosophy* into English

Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)



Herbert Spencer

- Authored the first sociology text, *Principles of Sociology*
- Most well known for proposing a doctrine called “Social Darwinism”
 - Suggested that people who could not compete were poorly adapted to the environment and inferior
 - This is an idea commonly called *survival of the fittest*

Karl Marx (1818-1883)



Karl Marx

- **Marx is the father of *conflict theory***
- **Saw human history in a continual state of conflict between two major classes:**
 - ***Bourgeoisie*—owners of the means of production (capitalists)**
 - ***Proletariat*—the workers**
- **Predicted that revolution would occur producing first a socialist state, followed by a communist society**

Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)



Emile Durkheim

- Durkheim moved sociology fully into the realm of an empirical science
- Most well known empirical study is called *Suicide*, where he looks at the social causes of suicide
- Generally regarded as the founder of *functionalist theory*

Max Weber (1864-1920)



Max Weber

- Much of Weber's work was a critique or clarification of Marx
- His most famous work, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* directly challenged Marx's ideas on the role of religion in society
- Weber was also interested in bureaucracies and the process of rationalization in society

Thank you