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## **THE HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY**

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## **ИСТОРИЯ СОЦИОЛОГИИ**

Since ancient times, people have been fascinated by the relationship between individuals and the societies to which they belong. Many of the topics that are central to modern sociological scholarship were studied by ancient philosophers. Many of these earlier thinkers were motivated by their desire to describe an ideal society.

In the 13th century, Ma Tuan-Lin, a Chinese historian, first recognized social dynamics as an underlying component of historical development in his seminal encyclopedia, *General Study of Literary Remains* [8].

Sociology has a relatively short history. The systematic study of "patterns of behavior" began in the early part of the 19th century in France, and then appeared in other European societies and the United States [6] as that century progressed. Although sociology has its roots in the works of philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, and Confucius, it is a relatively new academic discipline.

There was a great desire to know what was happening, why it was happening, and where it was leading. Were these changes beneficial ones? Were they harmful ones? Could anything be done to influence the course of change? These were the central questions that all the founders of sociology addressed [3].

Sociology, scientific study of human social behavior. As the study of humans in their collective aspect, sociology is concerned with all group activities – economic, social, political, and religious. Sociologists study such areas as bureaucracy, community, deviant behavior, family, public opinion, social change, social mobility, social stratification, and such specific problems as crime, divorce, child abuse, and

substance addiction. Sociology tries to determine the laws governing human behavior in social contexts; it is sometimes distinguished as a general social science from the special social sciences, such as economics and political science, which confine themselves to a selected group of social facts or relations [4].

The term *sociology* was coined by French philosopher Auguste Comte in 1838, who for this reason is known as the “Father of Sociology.” Comte felt that science could be used to study the social world. Just as there are testable facts regarding gravity and other natural laws, Comte thought that scientific analyses could also discover the laws governing our social lives. It was in this context that Comte introduced the concept of positivism to sociology – a way to understand the social world based on scientific facts. He believed that, with this new understanding, people could build a better future. He envisioned a process of social change in which sociologists played crucial roles in guiding society [2].

The founders of the modern study of sociology were Émile Durkheim and Max Weber. Durkheim pioneered in the use of empirical evidence and statistical material in the study of society (he advocated for educational reform). Weber's major contribution was as a theorist, and his generalizations about social organization and the relation of belief systems, including religion, to social action are still influential. In the United States the study of sociology was pioneered and developed by Lester Frank Ward and William Graham Sumner [7].

The most important theoretical sociology in the 20th cent. has moved in three directions: conflict theory (Karl Marx, Ralf Dahrendorf and C.Wright Mills [7]), structural-functional theory (Talcott Parsons, Robert Merton [7]), and symbolic interaction theory (George Herbert Mead, Herbert Blumer [7]). These pioneers of sociology all had a vision of using sociology to call attention to social concerns and bring about social change.

We looked for one video in the Internet, what explores the significance of three events to the creation of the field of academic sociology: the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution and the French Revolution. It also makes connections between these events and the development of conflict theory [1].

To sum up, Sociology was developed as a way to study and try to understand the changes to society brought on by the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of the earliest sociologists thought that societies and individuals' roles in society could be studied using the same scientific methodologies that were used in the natural sciences, while others believed that it was impossible to predict human behavior scientifically, and still others debated the value of such predictions. Those perspectives continue to be represented within sociology today.

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