



# SOCIOLOGY FOR UPSC / IAS

## CHAPTER -1

### TOPIC 1.B

b. Scope Of The Subject And Comparison With Other Social Sciences



# TOPICS OF CHAPTER - 1

## **1. Sociology - the discipline:**

- a. Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology.
- b. Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- c. Sociology and common sense.

# SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY



<u>Sociology</u>	<u>History</u>
Similarities in different events	Differences in similar events
Focusses on pattern of events	Focusses on personalities, events ( <b>Trevor – Roper</b> )
Analytical	Descriptive
Generalising	Particularising
Nomothetic	Idiographic ( <b>by Radcliffe Brown</b> )

# SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY



Concepts used by

**Marx**

(historical materialism)

**Durkheim**

(empirical evidence, evolution of societies – mechanical, organic solidarity)

**Weber**

(pesc)

**Indology**

(gsg, louis dumont)

# SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY



Socio without history is rootless, history without socio is fruitless

**EH Carr** – the more sociological the history becomes and the more historical the sociology becomes, the better it is

**Lucien Febvre** and **Mark Bloch** formed **Annales** school to study long-term social history

History is past sociology, sociology is present history

Historical concepts such as ethnicity, caste, used to mobilise people socially

# SOCIOLOGY AND ECONOMY



## Concepts used by

Marx – economic determinism

Weber – PESC

Alfred Marshall – father of welfare economics

Thomas Piketty – In 21st century capitalism is causing extreme inequality.

Advertisements – to study consumer behaviour, values, norms, culture

Pierre Bourdieu – economists shall look into all costs of economy including crime and suicides.

Neil Smelser – put forward the idea of industrial sociology for better understanding of modern society.

Adam Smith – put forward the idea of possibility of independence of institutions (laissez faire)

Goldthorpe, Veblen - technology available to a society, determines the character of its culture

A. Lowe – book "economics and sociology" – examines interplay of laws of market and mobility of factors of production.

Francois Simiand – principles of economy need to be verified sociologically

# SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE



Birth of socio related to political upheaval of French Revolution

## Concepts used by

**Marx** – use of sociology to bring about political change (communism)

**Weber** – bureaucracy, concept of power

**Pareto, Mosca, Robert Michels** (oligarchy), **CW Mills** – elite theories, democracy

**Parsons** – in AGIL. Politics gives goalsto society

**Dependency theories (Wallerstein)**– convergence of international politics and global level sociology.

**Colemans** – politics of developing areas

**David Easton** – a system analysis of political life

Social concepts such as **ethnicity, caste, gender, social class, religion** used to mobilise people politically and formation of political parties

Sociology helps in **determining political behaviour** (including **voting pattern, psephology**)

## **Reservation**

**Neil Smelser** - protests, social movements and right movements

## **Pressure groups**

**Nation – Political organisation of a society**

**Secularism – Withdrawal of religion, a social phenomenon, from political life**

## **Citizenship**

# SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



## Anthro Studies

Human evolution

Physical, cultural, social Anthro (evolution, genetics, fossils)

Archaeology

Concerned with pre-literate societies

# SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



Primarily uses **Structural-Functionalist** ways

Both influence by Darwins evolution theory

**Spencer** – social darwinism

**Sumner** – studied folkways (society + tradition)

**Malinowsky** – religion theory using anthro methods

**Durkheim** – ethnography of Arunta Tribes, DOL theory

**MNS, AB, SC Dubey**, etc – field study (borrowed from Anthro) to study Indian villages

## Social Anthro

Studies small society

Origin in colonialism

Takes western societies as benchmark (ethnocentric viewpoint)

**Malinowsky** - another name of social anthro is comparative sociology

# SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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## Ideas borrowed

Survey method

Quantitative data

Field work

Ethnographic research

# SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY



**Psycho** : science of behaviour. Focus on individual

**Social psychology** – behaviour in a group

**Weber** – importance to meanings attached by the actor

**Cooley** – looking glass self

**Mead** – symbolic interactionism

**Parsons** – effective role of mother

**Durkheim** – suicide not a psycho phenomenon. Social currents causing deviance

**Ginsberg, Nadel** – sociological studies can be enriched by psychological interpretations

**Gerth and Mills** – “**role**” as the meeting point between social structure and individual character

**George Simmel** - forms of **interaction** (formal & informal) and types of **interactants** (whether known or strangers. Behaviour varies)

**Alfred Vierkandt** - sociology is **sum total of social and psychic** behaviour of man which can be explained by abstract conceptual design

**Leopold Vanwiese** - all human behaviour can be divided into **associative** and **dissociative**

**Radcliffe Brown** – contrasts the two fields. One studies social system and other the mental system

# SOCIOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY



Socio emerged largely as a Philosophical ambition

As a separate BoK

Sociology raises a lot of philosophical questions and tries to answer them

**Giam Battista** - philosophy of history – separating society from political society

**Karl Mannheim** – ideas of **sociology of knowledge** had direct contribution to epistemological questions and thus to philosophy

**Marxist sociology** has, with time, become marxist philosophy or marxism

**Alfred Vierkandt** – sociology is productive only when it has a philosophical base. Philosophical orientation gives meaning to otherwise what are just facts and figures

**Gunnar Myrdal** – chaos cannot organise itself into cosmos, we need viewpoints