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.
SCOPE (SUBJECT MATTER)
OF SOCIOLOGY

Emerged as distinct discipline in response to problems/social change

Guided initial scope

Gradually widened with time

Can be understood in different phases-
INITIAL PHASE
1838 TO~1880

Initial phase 1838-1880s

**Macro Units**
Understanding society in terms of Macro Units
August comte - Social Statics, Social Dynamics
Saint Simon- Social Physics

**Inductive Approach**
Understanding social reality in terms of Empiricism
August Comte - Social Positivism
Herbert Spencer - Organismic Analogy

**Humanistic Perspective**
Understanding and finding solutions to social problem
2ND PHASE
(1880S-1940S)

Widening of scope

Max weber - Micro realities
(start of Interpretative Sociology)

Whereas Durkheim continued - Macro Units
(Social Facts)

Sociology started to be taught in large no of universities-

Therefore, Sociology now had Two Schools of thoughts -

Formal

Synthetic
Emphasis on micro phenomenon like social action/social processes

Sociology makes abstract generalisations about concrete reality
(Kantian influence)
(SUOR - Subjective Understanding of Objective Reality)

Studies objective reality as subjective interpretation
FORMAL SCHOOL

Mostly German

Weber
Start of Interpretative School

George Simmel
Forms of interaction (formal & informal)
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

Ferdinand Tonnies
Difference of social groups—Gameinschaft (community/small society) and Geselllschalf (society/industrial society)
SYNTHETIC SCHOOL

Macro, bringing all social sciences together, sociology can study everything
(Socio-Centrism)

**Durkheim**

Grand Theories

**Pitirim Sorokin**

*General sociology* - same institutions in the world (family, religion found everywhere)

*Specific sociology* - caste in India, race in America

**Karl Mannheim**

Discusses structure and broader ideas
(book - ideology and utopia)
3rd phase

(1940s to 1990s)

Blending of Formal and Synthetic

Parsons
The SOSA (Structure of social action)
The SS (social system)

Merton
Latent and Manifest - Combined Micro and Macro

CW Mills
Sociological imagination - Sociology of coffee - Discuss the chain

Anthony Giddens
Theory of Structuration - Double Hermeneutics
Observe and then understand
Why sindoor, why mangalsutra
Also emphasized blending

Extension of existing schools
Formal School -
Ethnomethodology (Harold Garfinkel),
Phenomenology (Alfred Schutz).
Present Phase

1980s onwards

Wider varieties of interest
(health, IT, biotech, networking, defence, environment)

Emergence of Post Modernist thought
Deal with metanarratives
No way to differentiate between true and untrue stories

Jacques Derrida
Deconstruction
Language can never truly represent an internal, objective reality

Michael Foucault
Discourse Analysis
That discourses have power

Alan Bryman
Multidisciplinary Approach
Purposive research has removed limitation on scope

Scope expanded throughout History
Conflict view (marxian/feminism) scope can also be understood in comparing sociology with other social sciences
Scope expanded throughout History

Conflict view (Marxian/Feminism)

Scope can also be understood in comparing sociology with other social sciences