



Weekly Question Discussion (Sociology) (Chapter – 1 Paper – 1)

Visit our website www.sleepyclasses.com or

our [YouTube channel](#) for entire GS Course **FREE** of cost

Also Available: Prelims Crash Course || Prelims Test Series

Click [here](#) to watch the following question on YouTube

How did the intellectual forces lead to the emergence of sociology?

Answer

- The emergence of sociology as a study of society is the response to 'Social conditions & intellectual climate' prevailing in Europe around 18th Century.
- T.B. Bottomore has discussed certain intellectual antecedents, that is, certain prevailing intellectual streams, which primarily influenced emergence of sociology as a separate body of knowledge.
 - a) Political philosophy
 - b) Philosophy of History
 - c) Biological theory of evolution
 - d) Social & political reform movements.
 - e) Development of method of social survey.
 - f) Rise of Feminism and associated thought (liberationist movement (Europe), progressive era of US (for rights))

How French Revolution and Industrial revolution acted as intellectual forces helping Sociology's emergence

- Berger says 'Sociology is one of the intellectual products of French revolution'.
- French Revolution changed the political structure of European society by replacing age of Feudalism & heralding the arrival of democracy.
- The significant themes which stimulated the early thinkers, included the 'transformation of property' & 'Social disorder' caused by Revolution.

Intellectual Revolution

- Political philosophy led by Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau etc. who proposed that people have right to choose their sovereign, religious toleration, individual liberty & separation of powers etc. influenced early Sociologists.

Political revolution

- Social order collapsed leading to a strong desire of the academicians of the era to conceptualise a science of the society that could help restore order to the society.

Religious changes

- With the rise of scientific and secular thoughts and ideals, August Comte & Saint Simon thought that a new science is needed to order & restructure the society and offer a scientific interpretation of Society.

Also, as a result of Industrial revolution, several 'Social changes' followed, such as:

Rise of Capitalism

- Karl Marx critically analysed the capitalism, as it became more & more complex
- Weber studied the new class of industrial workers, managers, capitalists as they emerged
- Durkheim studied how technology & factory system became subject matter, even altering the family relations
- Life & work became depersonalised.

Rise of Socialism

- Socio – economic disparity widened
- 'Working Class' – Socially deprived yet indispensable. These became a powerful social force to be studied.

Urbanization

- Industrial city grew, city life became a different way of life.
- New cities were known as 'repositories of misery & inhumanity'.
- Rise of petty crimes
- It was these aspects of Industrial revolution & consequent urbanization which concerned early Sociologists.
- Chicago school rose to study urbanization and subsequently defended democracy and capitalism.

Conservative reaction

- They wished to return to olden times. When there was peace, community social welfare rather than turmoil of then contemporary Society.
- It was represented by French Louis de Bonald, Joseph de Maistre.

(You can add a few points from the 10 points of Zeitlin here.)

Conclusion

- The discipline of Sociology was an intellectual response to the conditions unfolding in a fast changing European society, with immediate context and influence provided by both FR, IR as well as the prevailing intellectual forces of the time.