

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES





AUGUSTE COMTE

- A French Scholar(founder of positivist school of thought)
 - Recognized as Father of Sociology as he coined the word Sociology
 - Believed society had to be studied scientifically
- Therefore Comte's focus on scientific methods emphasize practical application of science on society

Comte's three stages	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Stage of knowledge	Fictitious knowledge	Metaphysical knowledge	Scientific knowledge
Foundations of belief	Faith and custom	Philosophy	Rational logic
Social base	Family	State	Humanity

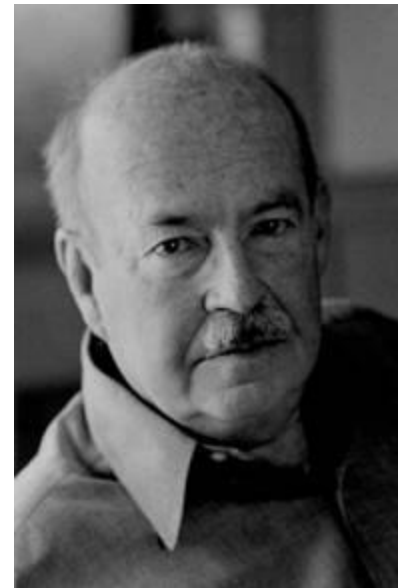
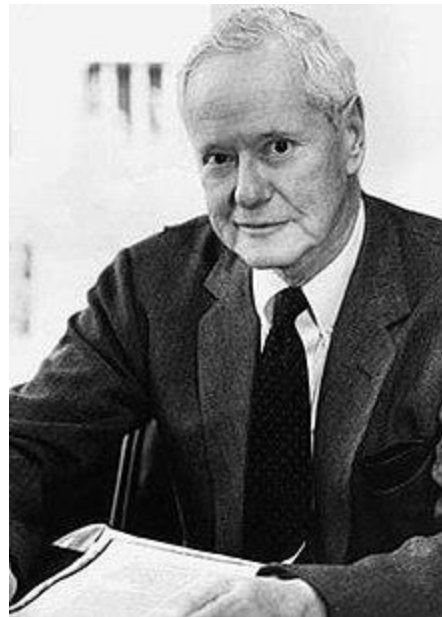
Key Points on Positivism

Positivism in short can be explained as

- positivism is the view that social phenomena (such as human social behavior and how societies are structured) should be studied using only the methods of the natural sciences**
- Thus, positivism is a view about the appropriate methodology of social science, emphasizing empirical observation.**

Primary concepts of Functionalism

- **The primary concepts within Functionalism are collective conscience, value consensus, social order, education, family, crime and deviance and the media.**
- **The concept of function: Functionalist sociologists like Parsons and Durkheim have been concerned with the search for functions that institutions may have in society.**



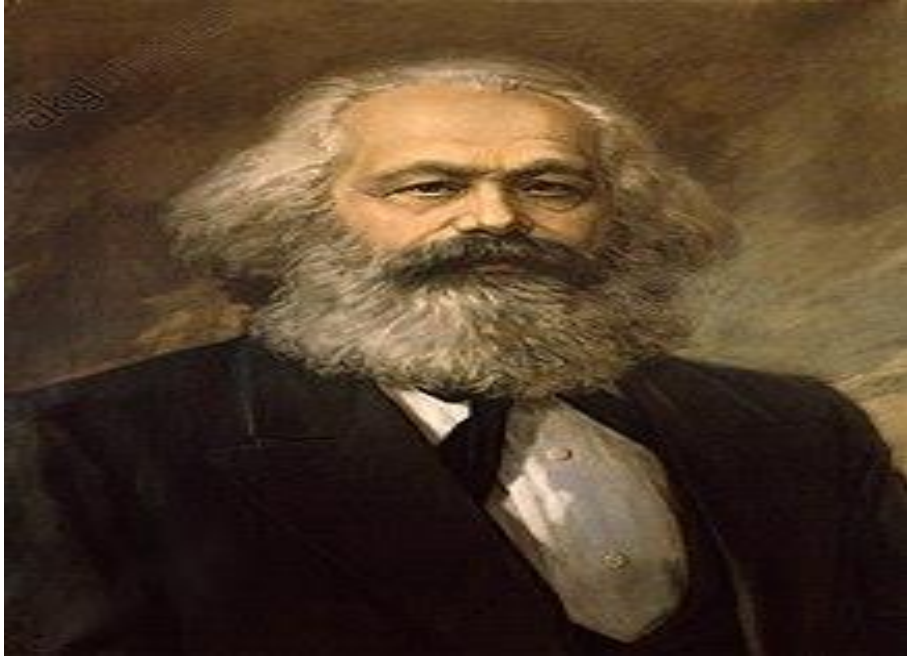
Functionalism

- **Functionalists see society as being structured like a human body with many interrelated parts that function together to maintain a healthy whole. So as a body has a heart, lungs, liver etc....society has Education, the Family, the Economy etc..**
- Therefore to understand the education system we must consider how it functions to contribute to the healthy maintenance of the whole social system.

SUMMARY OF FUNCTIONALISM

Functionalism is a major sociological theory that can be termed as consensus theory. The basic ideas laid in the Functionalist perspective can be summed up as

- All societies are based on the concept of stability / harmony or solidarity**
- Focus on institutional relationship and the functions of institutions. Organic analogy is a term used to explain how society works as a human body.**
- Notable Functionalists are Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton**



Marxism in short is

A political and economic philosophy of Karl Marx in which the concept of class struggle plays a central role in understanding society's development from bourgeoisie oppression over the proletariat under capitalism to a socialist and ultimately classless society.

Feminism:

/femənizəm/

noun.

The advocacy of **women's rights** on the grounds of political, social, and economic **equality** to men.

Feminism originated because of these factors

- Inequality between men and women is universal and the most significant form of inequality.
- Gender norms are socially constructed not determined by biology and can thus be changed.
- Patriarchy is the main cause of gender inequality – women are subordinate because men have more power.
- Feminism is the belief that women should have equal rights to men in all walks of life i.e. political, social and economic

Definition


- Feminism is the belief that women should have equal rights to men. In consequence, the feminist movement fights for equal rights and opportunities for women.
- There are many different kinds of feminism and feminists themselves tend to disagree about the ways in which women are disadvantaged and what exactly should be done to get equal rights. For example, 'social feminists' believe that women are exploited by the capitalist system both at work and in the home.

Suffragette Movement



In sociology, **interactionism** is a theoretical perspective that derives social processes (such as conflict, cooperation, identity formation) from human interaction. It is the study of individuals and how they act within society.

Interactionism: “A theoretical position assuming that the individual is not only influenced by his/her environment, but that s/he also influences his/her environment. The emphasis is on the person taking an active, or constructive, part in his/her development.”



Interactionist theory has its origin in the social psychology of early twentieth century sociologists George Herbert Mead and Charles Horton Cooley. Mead and Cooley examined the ways in which the individual is related to society through ongoing social interactions

