

INTRODUCTION

- Born in 1798 in France
- Known as INVENTOR OF SOCIOLOGY
- Influential about the progress of 19th & 20th century
- Believed the progress of human mind takes place in 3 steps;
 1. Theological } Used for understanding nature of things
 2. Metaphysical }
 3. Positive (used for search of the truth)
- Believed technocrats should try to run the society rather than having rationality of individual.
- He also believed in sociology would occupy pinnacle of a hierarchy of sciences.
- Auguste believed human mind, individual human being, all knowledge is an example of his search for invariant laws governing social world.

AUGUSTE COMTE (1798-1857)

- Auguste Comte is the founding father of Sociology.
- His contribution to sociology can be divided into five categories.
- They are namely:-
 1. ***Classification and ordering of social sciences.***
 2. ***The coining of the term sociology.***
 3. ***The law of three stages.***
 4. ***The plan for social reconstruction.***
 5. ***Positivism.***

Law of the Three Stages

- ❖ Comte identified three basic stages and proceeded to argue that the human mind, people through the maturation process, all branches of knowledge, and the history of the world all pass successively through these three stages.
- ❖ 1.The Theological Stage
- ❖ 2.The Metaphysical Stage
- ❖ 3.The Positivistic Stage

**The Law of Three Stages
OR
Theory of Human Progress**

**Theological OR
Fictitious Stage
(dominated by
priests and ruled
by military men)**

**Metaphysical OR
Abstract stage
(under the sway
of churchmen
and lawers)**

**Positive OR Scientific stage
(governed by industrial
administrative and scientific
moral guides)**

**Fetishism (Belief in
some living spirits
in the non-living
objects)**

**Polytheism (Belief
in several Gods as
well as natural and
Human forces)**

**Monotheism (Belief
in one God Who is
Supreme)**

Law of Human Progress (Law of Three Stages)

	Everything Explained By...	Primary Social Unit	Source of Knowledge & Control
Theological	Supernatural	Family	Priests & military
Metaphysical	Abstract	State	Clergy & Lawyers
Positivist	Scientific observation	Whole human race	Industrial admins & scientific moral guides

SYSTEM	THEOLOGICAL STAGE	METAPHYSICAL STAGE	POSITIVISTIC STAGE
<p>Cultural(moral) system</p> <p>A-Nature of ideas</p>	Ideas are focused on non-empirical forces, spirits and beings in the supernatural realm	Ideas are focused on the essences of phenomena and rejection of appeals to supernatural	Ideas are developed from observation and constrained by the scientific method, speculation not based on observation of empirical facts is rejected
B- Spiritual leaders	Priests	Philosophers	Scientists
<p>Structural (temporal) system</p> <p>A-Most prominent units</p>	Kinship	State	Industry
B- Basis of integration	Attachment to small groups and religious spirit, use of coercive force to sustain commitment to religion	Control by state military or law	Mutual dependence, coordination of functions by state or general spirit

- ▣ *The Theological Stage*: In this state of society, all theoretical conceptions bear a supernatural impress, observations are predominated by imaginations.
- ▣ Military conquest was the true aim of this state.
- ▣ Industrial pursuits quite rarely followed for the support of human
- ▣ Slavery as the principal institution

Law of Three Stages



- **The Theological Stage** – first and necessary stage for the rest. Mind is searching for essential nature of things (origin and purpose), concludes supernatural forces (gods) are at work.
 - Fetishism – worship of an object, like a tree
 - Polytheism – many gods
 - Monotheism – one god to explain everything

Fetishism

- ▮ It was the primary stage of the theological stage, throughout this stage people worship inanimate objects such as trees, stones and wood etc.

Polytheism

- This is the second stage of theology, where people believe in many deities usually assembled into a pantheon of gods and goddesses along with other rituals. All the deities are worshiped differently not equally, such as the god of water, rain, fire, earth etc.

Monotheism

- Monotheism means the belief in one just and true God. This is the last stage of theology, where a society evolves from fetishism to monotheism.

Metaphysical Stage

- ▣ This is the second stage of Comte's social evolution. In this stage the society is neither completely military nor industrial rather this is a transition stage.
- ▣ Observations are still kept sub-ordinate to imaginations but modification of the later is started in this stage.

Positivism

- ▣ This is the last stage of social evolution. In this stage theoretic conceptions become positive.
- ▣ Here the society organizes itself by making production its true aim.
- ▣ A scientific stage where explanation based on observations, experiments and comparisons.