

Sociology emerged in the context of the sweeping changes that the Industrial Revolution brought to Europe. Two other factors operating at the time also encouraged the development of sociology. The example of natural sciences if their methods could make so much sense of the physical world could they not be applied successfully to the social world. The second factor was the exposure of Europe to the radically different societies that their colonial empires had taken over. Information about the contrasting social practices of these societies raised fresh questions about society in general. **Auguste Comte (1798-1857)** holds the title of Father of Sociology who established two specific problems for sociological investigation - social statics and social dynamics. Social statics refers to the problem of order and stability and social dynamics refers to the problem of social change. He believed that a science of sociology should be based on systematic observation and classification. Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) applied the theory of organic evolution to human society and developed theory of social evolution. **Karl Marx (1818-1883)** saw social conflict and inevitability of revolution as part of the society. Durkheim emphasized the basic needs of the society comparing it to a living organism. **Max Weber** stressed the regular patterns of action that can be discerned and result from particular beliefs. All these men were reacting to the crisis brought about in society by the flood of ideas upon which the revolutions were borne. Each searched for the dynamics that would explain the underlying causes of social change and in doing so they were also searching for the basis of social order.