

WHEN DID SOCIOLOGY BECOME ESTABLISHED AS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

SOCIOLOGY BECAME ESTABLISHED AS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, EMERGING FROM THE INTELLECTUAL CURRENTS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE SOCIAL UPEAVALS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. AS SOCIETIES UNDERWENT PROFOUND CHANGES, THINKERS BEGAN TO ANALYZE THESE TRANSFORMATIONS, LEADING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AS A DISTINCT FIELD OF STUDY. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT, KEY FIGURES, AND THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIOLOGY INTO AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE, HIGHLIGHTING CRITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND DEBATES THAT SHAPED ITS TRAJECTORY.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND ITS INFLUENCE

THE PERIOD KNOWN AS THE ENLIGHTENMENT, SPANNING FROM THE LATE 17TH CENTURY TO THE 18TH CENTURY, LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR SOCIOLOGY. THINKERS SUCH AS JOHN LOCKE, JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU, AND VOLTAIRE EMPHASIZED REASON, INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL CONTRACTS. THEIR IDEAS PROMPTED A SHIFT FROM FEUDAL AND RELIGIOUS EXPLANATIONS OF SOCIETY TO MORE SECULAR AND RATIONAL APPROACHES.

KEY CONCEPTS FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT THAT INFLUENCED THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIOLOGY INCLUDE:

1. EMPIRICISM: THE BELIEF THAT KNOWLEDGE SHOULD BE DERIVED FROM OBSERVED AND MEASURED PHENOMENA.
2. HUMANISM: A FOCUS ON HUMAN VALUES AND CONCERNS, LEADING TO THE STUDY OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN SOCIAL CONTEXTS.
3. SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY: THE IDEA THAT SOCIETIES ARE FORMED THROUGH AGREEMENTS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, PROMOTING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION.

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, WHICH BEGAN IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY, DRASTICALLY CHANGED SOCIETIES, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE. THE SHIFT FROM AGRARIAN ECONOMIES TO INDUSTRIALIZED URBAN CENTERS CREATED NEW SOCIAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS POVERTY, CLASS CONFLICT, AND SOCIAL DISINTEGRATION. THESE CHANGES PROMPTED THINKERS TO STUDY SOCIETY SCIENTIFICALLY, LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR SOCIOLOGY.

KEY IMPACTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION:

- URBANIZATION: MASSIVE MIGRATION TO CITIES, LEADING TO OVERCROWDING AND CHANGES IN SOCIAL STRUCTURES.
- CLASS DIVISION: THE EMERGENCE OF DISTINCT SOCIAL CLASSES, PARTICULARLY THE BOURGEOISIE AND THE PROLETARIAT.
- NEW SOCIAL ISSUES: INCREASED CRIME RATES, HEALTH PROBLEMS, AND LABOR DISPUTES PROMPTED CALLS FOR SYSTEMATIC STUDY AND REFORM.

PIONEERS OF SOCIOLOGY

SEVERAL KEY FIGURES EMERGED IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, EACH CONTRIBUTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE.