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## INTRODUCTION

Sociology is a science that studies society in a strictly scientific way. It classifies, studies, and recognizes social groups and communities. Its principle is to level the way for other sciences to present ideas that could result in improving society; medics, professors, engineers, jurists, and all the professional researchers, who need the theoretical areas presented by Sociology. Family, social structure, social classes, social groups, and the individual role that a person occupies in society, are elements of Sociology.

Sociology has ascended to be the mother of all sciences. It inherited a history rich in social events, which has marked our society and brought the past into the present, whilst looking to the future. We are interlinked in our behaviors, beliefs, and costumes by Sociology. It has made us look for answers and to find where we stand in society. Sociology studies “all things human.”

## Description

Sociology makes part of a group of sciences called Social Sciences. It is a vast group of sciences that include **Sociology, Economics, Geography, History, Law, Linguistics, Politics, Psychology, Archaeology and Anthropology**. Sociology, studies, assesses people no matter where, or who they are. In ancient times, philosophers, and thinkers, studied, viewed, and analyzed their communities, which then, were not as vast and varied as they are today. They were the pioneers of Sociology, long before the term Sociology existed. There is the believe that one of the better-known sociologists of all times, was Jesus Christ. He aimed to teach the order in society and social values. For him, moral concepts were an important part of society.

“Socius may refer to Socii, of the Roman Republic in classical times. A Latin noun meaning "**comrade, friend, ally**" (adjectival form: socialis) and used to describe a bond or interaction between parties that are friendly, or at least civil; it has given rise to the word "society.". (Wikipedia)

"The term "sociology" was first coined in 1780 by the French essayist [Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès](#) in an unpublished [manuscript](#).<sup>[23][note 2]</sup>

"Sociology" was later defined independently by French [philosopher of science Auguste Comte](#) in 1838<sup>[24]</sup> as a new way of looking at society.<sup>[25]:10</sup>

Comte had earlier used the term "social physics", but it had been subsequently appropriated by others, most notably the Belgian statistician Adolphe Quetelet. Comte endeavoured to unify history, psychology, and economics through the scientific understanding of social life. “. (Wikipedia)

When sociology emerged as a new academic science, it was in response to the enormous changes that had occurred previously –

- The French revolution deposed a dynasty of opulence and sparkle, brought enormous changes to the country with new laws and positive effects, and as revolutions go, negative consequences too. It was formed by the very first democratic government in an European country. This was groundbreaking and led Western Europe to the democratic model it is today.
- The Industrial Revolution saw the world jump up and advance; this was the beginning of a process of industrialization that had a global affect. New jobs and new kinds of employment were created. It was a time of great movement for the masses and for cultures to mix. People left their places of birth, and their religious beliefs and superstitions, and moved into towns and cities, looking for newer and better lives. It accelerated a process of industrialization. This was the beginning of a new era. Since then, our world started moving at a different pace and it has not stopped.

More inventions and innovations surged, with the digital world, remarkable advances in science and medicine, and voyages into space.

However, Sociology's roots are ancient, indeed, and originated in the inspired minds of many thinkers and philosophers before modern times. It tells us that as long as society existed and exists, Sociology is looking over humans to study all social transformations. Sociology is closely linked with human evolution.

“Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406), the Arab philosopher of history, statesman, judge, historian,

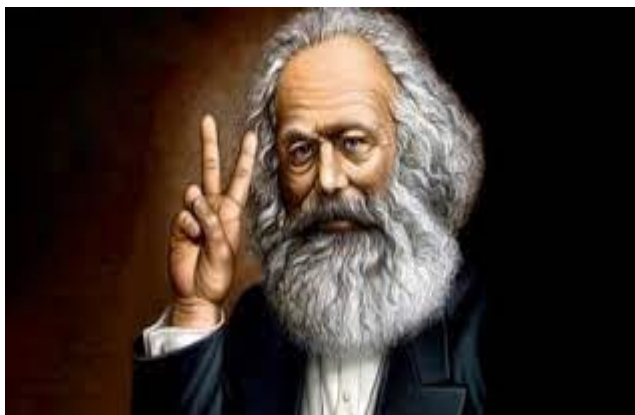


and sociologist is considered as the true founding Father of modern sociology. However, there is a widespread assumption in the contemporary intellectual production that the science of culture and society originated solely in Europe. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to show how the classical sociological theories, methods, and principles are rooted in the remarkable contributions of Ibn Khaldun.

Ibn Khaldun's theories and thought still prove their feasibility and applicability to current social issues. Bringing back Ibn Khaldun's thoughts into the classical social theories would acknowledge his remarkable contributions to the establishment and development of social thought.”. (Al-Sulaim)

The “fathers” of Sociology (see below) studied society in its deepest form and their voices were heard. They open the way to a field that until then was not recognised as science.

**“The Power Trio of Sociology”** “Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber are the three most important figures in sociology. Their ideas about society are still discussed today, and you’re apt to hear their names in all branches of sociology. It’s important to know what they thought and said.



**Karl Marx** (1818-1883) was a German philosopher who believed that material goods are at the root of the social world. According to Marx, social life is fundamentally about conflict over food, land, money, and other material goods.

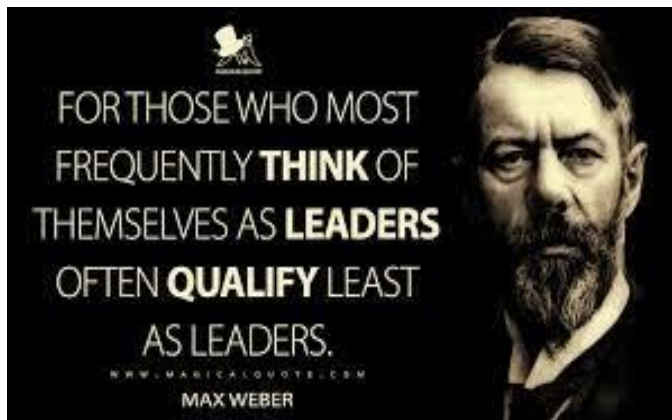
Marx believed that the ideal government would be a communist state where resources are equally shared.

**Emile Durkheim** (1858-1917) was a French sociologist who helped establish sociology by arguing that society had to be studied on its own terms —



that understanding individual psychology was insufficient. Durkheim believed that societies are held together by shared values, which change over time as societies became bigger and more complex.

**Max Weber** (1864-1920) was a German sociologist who agreed with Marx that people



often fight to protect their own interests, but he agreed with Durkheim that what people consider their interests often are determined by socialization and shared values. He believed society is becoming more rationalized and

bureaucratic over time.”. (Gabler, Jay)

Of all three mentioned above, **Karl Marx** is probably the best known for his communist ideologies. His legacy is unending. To these days he is well known in all corners of the globe, primarily for his “political” views, which in conjugation with others, form the socialist ideologies of the past and somehow of the present. Who has not heard of Marxism? Many countries, embraced this system, including my country, Portugal, where there was a brief political period close to his ideology, aiming for a communist government.

The concept of common property, and that wealth could be equally shared to create social equilibrium in society, was never and will never be achievable.



Karl Marx, ideas were socially noble. However, his views were taken out of proportion, by political groups in many parts of the world.

An equal society is not achievable, because humans are too rooted in their differences, and also societies need to be composed of all hierarchies. If more than one individual live together and relationships are established between them, there are bound to be social processes. This leads to social classes differences, competition, and disagreement, which will take place in that social circle, no matter how small it is.

**Emile Durkheim** is regarded as the father of the French school of Sociology. Durkheim's topics were State; Political Sociology; Theoretical Sociology. He developed a concept called "**Anomie**", which portrays his brilliance as a sociologist.

Durkheim was a deep thinker and sociologist who understood society in all its complexity. It was a remarkable event and an immense personal achievement to have been the first scholar of Sociology in his country. He was born into a modest Jewish family, and this placed him between two worlds, and served to enrich his knowledge of life and made him a "realistic" Sociologist.

"Anomie is a social condition in which there is a disintegration or disappearance of the norms and values that were previously common to the society. The concept, thought of as "normlessness," was developed by the founding sociologist, Émile Durkheim.

He discovered, through research, that anomie occurs during and follows periods of drastic and rapid changes to the social, economic, or political structures of society.

It is, per Durkheim's view, a transition phase wherein the values and norms common during one period are no longer valid, but new ones have not yet evolved to take their place. A few years later, Durkheim further elaborated his concept of anomie in his 1897 book, *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. He identified anomic suicide as a form of taking one's life that is motivated by the experience of anomie.” (Crossman,Ashley)

**Max Weber** was one of the great sociologists of our time. He lived during a period when the world was changing. He viewed individuality as the basic unit of society and that human motivation, actions, and relationships needed to be analyzed scientifically. Weber brought the past of ancient civilizations to his present time and wrote “***The Agrarian Sociology of Ancient Civilizations***,” see below -

“Written in 1908, ***The Agrarian Sociology of Ancient Civilizations*** represents a sustained historical synthesis of a type unlike anything else in Weber's writing.

Nor has any equivalent survey been written by a classical scholar since. Weber starts with a general introduction that explores the necessary concepts for relating 'economic theory' and 'ancient society'. He then proceeds to a chronologically ordered study of Mesopotamia and Egypt; Hebrew society in Israel; the classical city-states of Greece; the imperial Hellenic realms; and finally, the evolution of Roman society from the Republic to the rise and fall of the Empire.”. (Google Books)

Since officially Sociology was created and recognized as an academic science, it has not stopped to evolve –

“**Harriet Martineau** ([/ˈmɑːrtɪn.əʊ/](#); 12 June 1802 – 27 June 1876) was an English [social theorist](#) often seen as the first female [sociologist](#).<sup>[1]</sup> She wrote from a sociological, [holistic](#), religious and feminine angle, translated works by [Auguste Comte](#), and, rarely for a woman writer at the time, earned enough to support herself.<sup>[2]</sup> The young [Princess Victoria](#) enjoyed her work and invited her to her 1838 coronation.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

Martineau advised "a focus on all [society's] aspects, including key political, religious, and social institutions". She applied thorough analysis to women's status under men.”.

(Wikipedia)

“**Albion Woodbury Small** (May 11, 1854 – March 24, 1926) founded the first American department of sociology at the [University of Chicago](#) in 1892. He was influential on the establishment of [sociology](#) as a valid field of academic study in the [United States](#), and his foundational works have borne fruit in several generations of sociologists and other social scientists. (New World Encyclopedia)

“**Herbert Spencer** (1820-1903) In 1873, the English philosopher Herbert Spencer published *The Study of Sociology*, the first book with the term “sociology” in the title. Spencer rejected much of Comte’s philosophy as well as Marx’s theory of class struggle and his support of communism. Instead, he favoured a form of government that allowed market forces to control capitalism. His work influenced many early sociologists including Émile Durkheim (1858–1917). (openstax)

In all its associations with other sciences, Sociology presents us with the means to study and evaluate who we are and where we are going. Sociologically we are partners in sharing our beliefs, ideologies, thoughts, and everything we do. The most famous sociologists of our days, according to Academic Influence website (please see below) -

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Omar Lizardo   | 6. Judith Butler       |
| 2. Bruno Latour   | 7. Pierpaolo Donati    |
| 3. Harrison White | 8. John Levi Martin    |
| 4. Jurgen Haberns | 9. Mark S. Granovetter |
| 5. Vivian Zelizer | 10. Diane Vaughan      |

This group of modern Sociologists studied, and study areas that cover **Cultural, Cognitive, Organizational, Social Constructionism, Actor-network Theory, Social Network Analyses, Mathematical, Social theory, Political Theory, Rationalization, Pragmatism, Economic, Relational Sociology, Critical Theory, Gender Theory, Social Policy, Relational Sociology, Normalization of Deviance, Organizational Behaviour**. Extracts from Academic Influence website (Sara L. Austin)

Therefore, we can assume that Sociology has evolved. It has accompanied the natural evolution of society and there have been many changes that cannot be ignored. Examples are - Sex change, Same Sex Marriage, Social Media Groups such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, Drugs, Religion, Animal rights, to name just a few.

What would the fathers of Sociology have thought of this evolution? And what will be the future of Sociology? How many more theories and issues will emerge the coming decades and centuries? How many more theories and issues will emerge the coming times.

“The sociology of the future is an emerging field of inquiry that works to understand future



consciousness drawing from a mix of Science & Technology Studies and the practice of foresight. Through an exploration of the theories, methodologies, and quagmires of anticipation employed in the study of nanotechnology, this piece introduces the sociology of the future and suggests

some ways the field is taking definition. Exploring the future tense provides a means of taking responsibility for what is to come; yet the movement of the social sciences into the tricky terrain of the future presents tensions.

Understanding plausibility, how different communities use anticipatory knowledge, and the performative role of expectations in innovation remain areas of research rich with dilemmas and delights. As social scientists begin to weave their own accounts of futures, they should pay attention to the politics of such rendering.”.(Selin, Cynthia).

## **Conclusion**

Sociology moves in this enormous stage which is society and all ramifications associated with it. This same society that has emerged from eras of conquest, slavery, endless wars, famine, and natural catastrophes. The same society that has created social classes that distance people from one another, and at the same time created philanthropy as an equilibrium platform. We must marvel at the progress of our society and the good that exists in it.

We have been acting and thinking as philosophers and sociologists since we existed, because we are born sociologists and therefore, Sociology as a science, took a place of honor in our schools, universities, talks, and homes. Now it is taught all over the world. Sociology is pure mobility, and it exists because society needed to be studied in an analytical way. However, Sociology has been inspired by us, humans. We are the database of Sociology.

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