

A Brief History of Sociology



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(c)



(d)

Introduction: Sociology, our detective into the mysteries of society, was born in the late 1800s during the Industrial Revolution—a time of significant change.

I. Emergence and Urban Challenges: As people shifted from rural to urban life, cities faced challenges like pollution, poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, and crime.

II. Early Sociologists: Pioneers like Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber emerged to study these urban challenges and understand societal shifts.

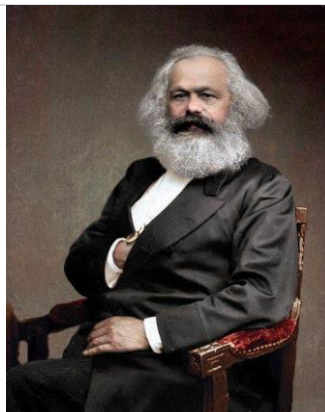
1. Auguste Comte (1798–1857):

- Auguste Comte was a French philosopher and sociologist, often regarded as the father of sociology.
- Born in 1798, Comte developed the concept of positivism, emphasizing the application of scientific methods to the study of society.
- He envisioned sociology as a discipline that could identify and solve societal problems through systematic observation and analysis.



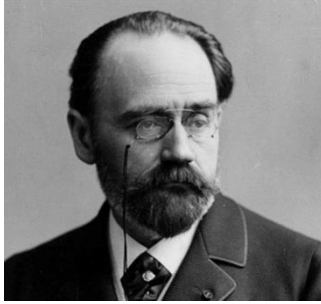
2. Karl Marx (1818–1883):

- Karl Marx, a German philosopher, economist, and sociologist, co-authored "The Communist Manifesto" and wrote "Das Kapital."
- Born in 1818, Marx's work focused on the critique of capitalism, class struggle, and historical materialism.
- His ideas laid the foundation for conflict theory, emphasizing the role of social conflict in shaping society.



3. Emile Durkheim (1858–1917):

- Emile Durkheim, a French sociologist, is considered one of the founding figures of sociology.
- Born in 1858, Durkheim's work emphasized social order, solidarity, and the study of social facts.
- He conducted groundbreaking research on suicide, defining sociology as the scientific study of social institutions and their impact on individuals.



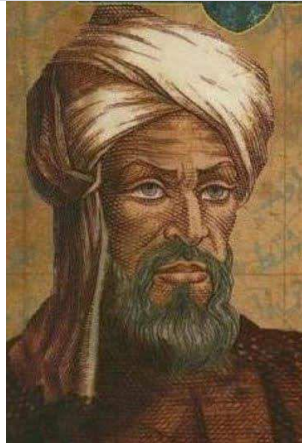
4. Max Weber (1864–1920):

- Max Weber, a German sociologist and political economist, contributed significantly to the understanding of social action.
- Born in 1864, Weber's work included the concept of verstehen (understanding) and the exploration of the impact of religion on societal development.
- He addressed the role of bureaucracy and developed the theory of the Protestant work ethic.



5. Ibn Khaldun (1332–1406):

- Ibn Khaldun, an Arab historian, scholar, and philosopher, is often recognized as a forerunner to sociology.
- Born in 1332, he wrote the "Muqaddimah" (Introduction) and "Kitab al-Ibar" (Book of Lessons), where he explored historical sociology.
- Ibn Khaldun's work focused on the cyclical nature of civilizations, social cohesion, and the impact of environment and culture on society.



III. Sociological Responses:

These early sociologists not only studied but also proposed solutions, aiding society in comprehending and coping with these new challenges.

IV. Sociological Evolution:

Their efforts laid the foundations for sociology, and as time progressed, sociologists continued contributing to ongoing societal transformations.

Conclusion:

So, in a nutshell, sociology began as a response to societal changes during the Industrial Revolution. Early detectives paved the way, and today's sociologists continue unraveling the complexities of our ever-changing societies.