

# Foundation of Sociological Thought Paper-I

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# Syllabus

- **Paper – I - Foundation of Sociological Thought (3691)**

- UNIT – A

The Emergence and Development of Sociological Thought : Transition from Social Philosophy to Sociology. -The Social, Economic and Political Forces: The French and Industrial Revolutions, Enlightenment.

- UNIT - B

The Pioneers : Auguste Comte: Positivism; Herbert Spencer: Social Evolution ; Emile Durkheim : Social Fact; Max Weber: Ideal Type.

- UNIT – C

The Classical Tradition: Durkheim: Division of Labour and Suicide; Weber : Social Action, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism; Pareto : Logical and Non-Logical Action, Circulation of Elites.

- UNIT – D

Theoretical Approaches: Social Action : T. Parsons. Functionalism: R.K.Merton ; Conflict: Karl Marx.

- UNIT – E

Development of Sociological Thought in India: Contributions of G.S. Ghurye, D.P. Mukherjee and Radha Kamal Mukherjee.

# Essential Readings

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- Coser, Lewis A. 1979 Masters of Sociological Thought. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- Ritzer George. 1996 Sociological Theory. New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill.
- Zeitlin, Irving 1998 ( Indian edition ) , Rethinking Sociology: A Critique of Contemporary Theory. Jaipur : Rawat
- Doshi, S.L. : Samajik Vicharak ( in Hindi ) , Rawat Publ. Jaipur . 1998
- Mukherjee, R.N.: Samajik Vichardhara ( in Hindi ) Vivek Prakashan, Delhi: 1998.

# Emergence of Sociological Thought

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- The emergence of sociological thought is traced to the conservative reaction to the Enlightenment philosophy of the 18th century.
- Prior to the middle of the 18th century the study of society was dominated by social philosopher rather than social scientists.
- Social philosophy studies human society as part of the universe.

# TRANSITION FROM SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY TO SOCIOLOGY

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- Sociology emerged from the contributions of philosophers and religious thought of all civilizations.
- Social philosophy is an attempt by the philosophers to provide guidance and answers in order to solve the problems of the society.
- The philosophical analysis of society were essentially based on speculation on untested assumptions and they lacked systematic analysis of the structure and functions of societies.

# Conti..

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- ◉ Enlightenment: Intellectual Context of Development of Sociology-
  - (i) Protestant Revolt: 1520-1560
  - (ii) The Scientific Revolution
  - (iii) The age of enlightenment



# Enlightenment

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- ◉ The Enlightenment was a significant contributing factor to the emergence of sociology in the late 18th and early 19th century.
- ◉ The Enlightenment is considered to be the source of critical ideas, such as the centrality freedom, democracy, and reason as primary values of society.
- ◉ The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement consisting of many philosophers. The most popular figures of this new framework were Charles Montesquieu (1689-1755), Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) and John Locke (1632-1704) Jean-Jacques Rousseau(1712–78)

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- The thinkers of Enlightenment aimed to teach people stop listening and following blindly the church's opinion and decisions, and start thinking on their own.
  - Challenge what they hear and develop their critical judgment.
  - People were now advised to try and solve their problems on their own rather than wait for God to provide a solution for them. This new way of thinking was a big factor in economic growth.



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**Thanks**