

SYM 101, Sociological Concepts

Unit 01

**Relationship between Sociology &
Other Social Sciences**

Part II

Relationship between Sociology & Political Science

Human is a social animal

It provide a holistic perspective

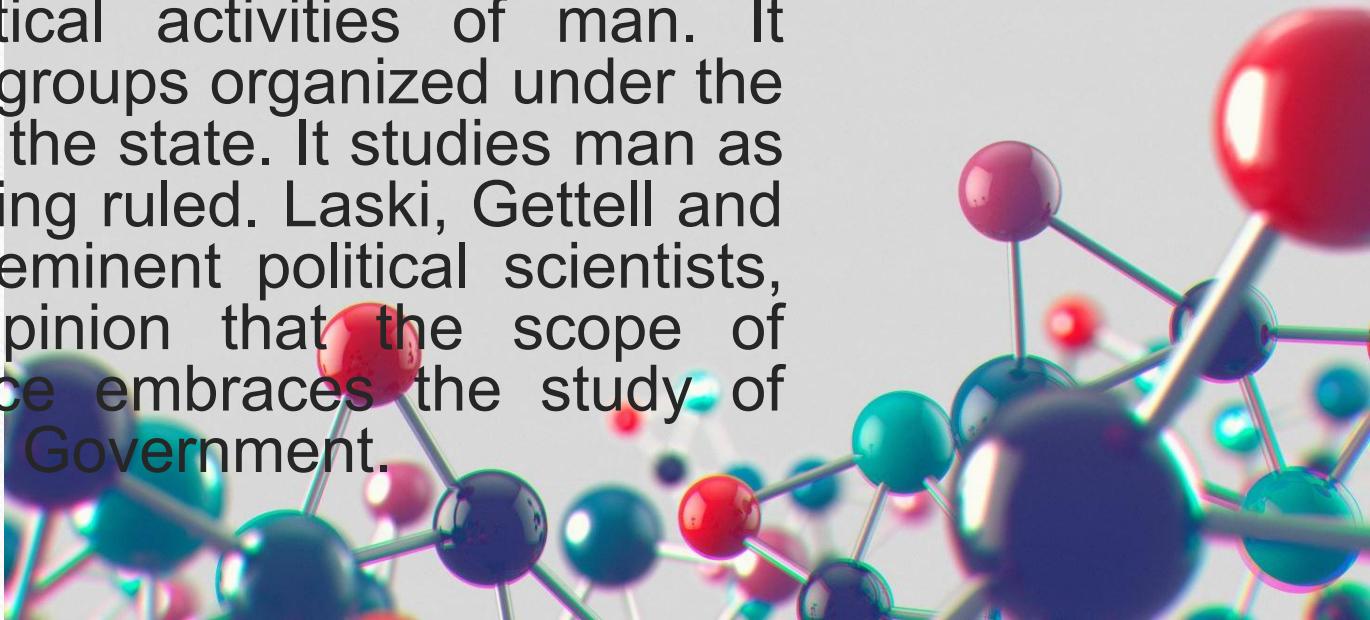
Integration between the two
disciplines

Multidisciplinary Approach

Understanding Human
Behavior

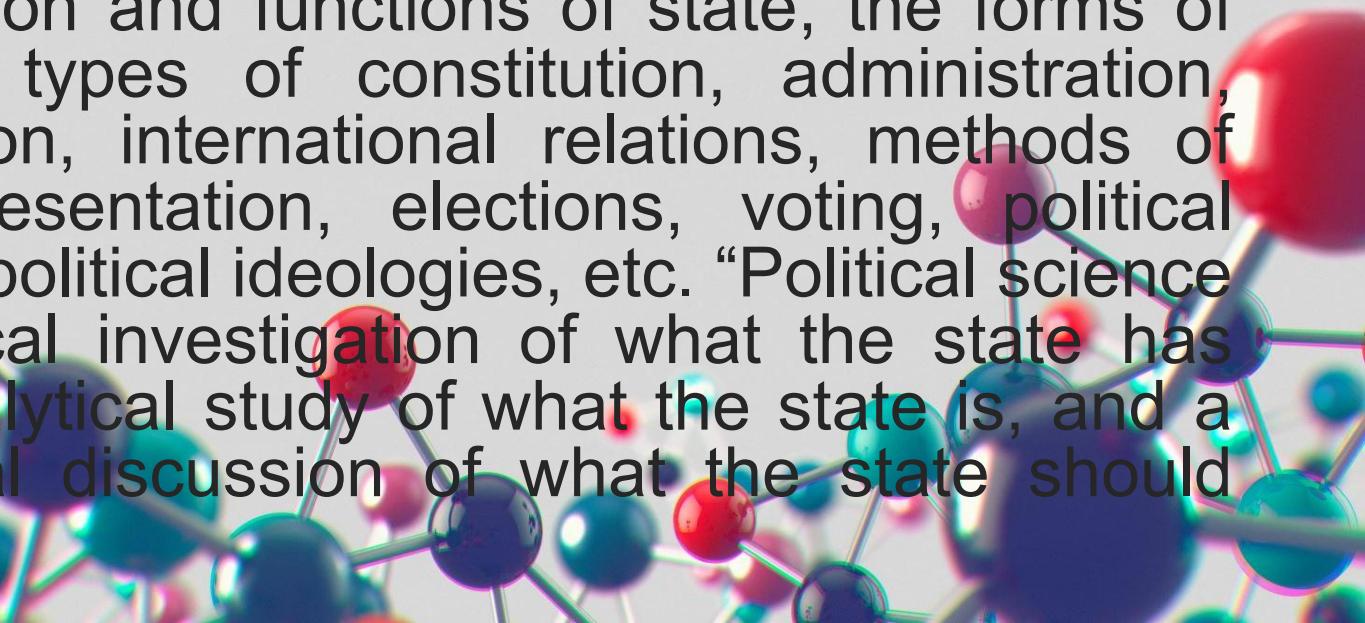
Relationship between sociology and Political Science

- Political science and Sociology are very closely related. Political Science deals with the political activities of man. It studies social groups organized under the sovereignty of the state. It studies man as a ruler and being ruled. Laski, Gettell and Gilchrist, the eminent political scientists, are of the opinion that the scope of political science embraces the study of both State and Government.



Core Areas of Inquiry

- Political Science has its own topics such as the origin, evolution and functions of state, the forms of government, types of constitution, administration, law; legislation, international relations, methods of political representation, elections, voting, political movements, political ideologies, etc. “Political science is an historical investigation of what the state has been, an analytical study of what the state is, and a politico-ethical discussion of what the state should be.”



Sociology Has its Roots in Politics

- Morris Ginsberg writes “Historically, sociology has its main roots in politics and philosophy of history”. The main works on social subjects such as Plato’s Republic, the Politics of Aristotle, Arthashastra of Kautilya, The Laws and Republic of Cicero and other classical works were treated to be complete works on political science. Only recently distinction between the two has been clearly made.

The Relationship between the Two

- Political Science and Sociology are so intimately connected as **Garner said that the “political is embedded in the social that if political science remains distinct from sociology, it will be because of the breadth of the field calls for the specialist, not because there are any well-defined boundaries marking it off from sociology”**. Both the sciences are mutually helpful. In fact, political activity is only a part of social activity. Thus, political science appears to be a branch of sociology. However, we cannot say that political science is just political sociology.

The Relationship between the Two

- Political activity influences and is influenced by the social life of people. In fact, political activities will have no meaning outside the social context.
- Politics is after all the reflection of society. This is made clear by the common saying, that '**people have the government which they deserve**'.

The Relationship between the Two

- Political science gives sociology facts about the organization and functions of the state and government. Political science derives from sociology the knowledge of the origin of the political authority.



The Relationship between the Two

Political science is concerned with the state. But sociology also studies state as one of the human associations. The state, in its early form, was more a social institution than a political one.

The Relationship between the Two

- Moreover, a political scientist must also be a sociologist. The laws of the state have a great influence upon society. These laws are largely based on customs, traditions, conventions and usages. But these customs, traditions, etc., are the concern of sociology. The institution of family, for example, is an element in social life. It is the concern of sociology. But the laws of marriage, made to regulate the family, fall within the field of political science.



Common Foci of Attention

- There are some common topics of interest for both sociologists and political scientists. Such topics as war, mass movements, revolutions, government control, public opinion, propaganda, leadership, elections, voting, political minorities, social legislations like civil code.

Views of Various Thinkers on the Relation between the Two Sciences

- The interrelationship of political science and sociology has been stressed by some thinkers. **Prof. Giddings** says that “to teach the theory of the state to men who have not learnt the first principles of sociology is like teaching astronomy or thermodynamics to men who have not learnt the Newtonian Laws of Motion”.

Views of Various Thinkers on the Relation between the Two Sciences

- **F.G. Wilson** remarks that “it must be admitted, of course, that it is often difficult to determine, whether a particular writer should be considered a sociologist, political theorist or philosopher”. According to **Comte and Spencer**, there is no difference whatsoever between the two.
- **G.E.C. Catlin** has remarked that political science and sociology is two facets or aspects of the same coin.

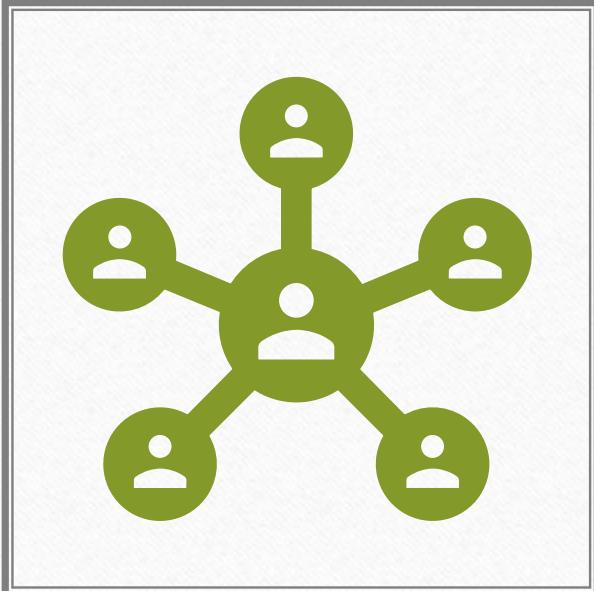
Differences between the Two Sciences

Sociology	Political Science
Sociology is a science of society	Political Science is a science of state and government
Sociology studies all kind of societies, organized as well as unorganized	Political Science studies only the politically organized societies
Sociology has a wider scope	Political Science has a narrower field
Sociology studies man as fundamentally a social animal	Political Science studies man as a political animal

Sociology	Political Science
<p>Sociology is a general social science. Hence it studies all kinds or forms of social relationship in a general way</p>	<p>Political Science is a special social science, because it concentrates, only on the human relationships which are political in character</p>
<p>The approach of is sociological. It follows its own methods in addition to the scientific methods, in its investigation</p>	<p>The approach is political. It has its own methods of study like the historical method, philosophical method, comparative methods, statistical method etc.</p>
<p>Finally, Sociology is quite young It is not even two centuries old</p>	<p>Political science is an older science comparatively to sociology</p>

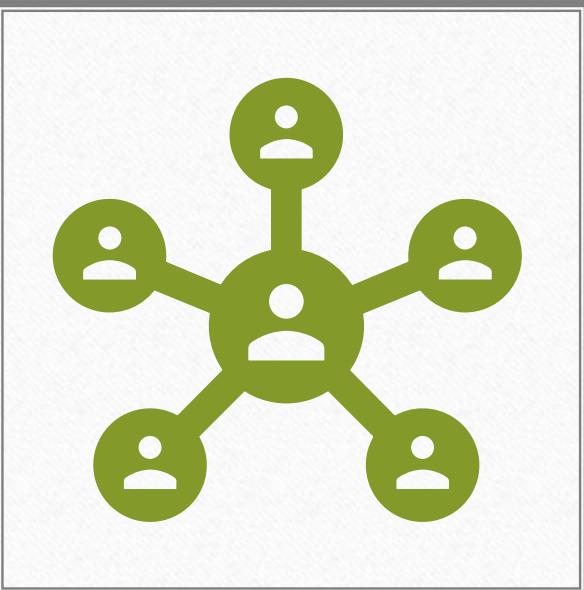
Relationship between Sociology and Economics

- Sociology and economics as social sciences have close relations. Relationship between the two is so close that one is often treated as the branch of the other.



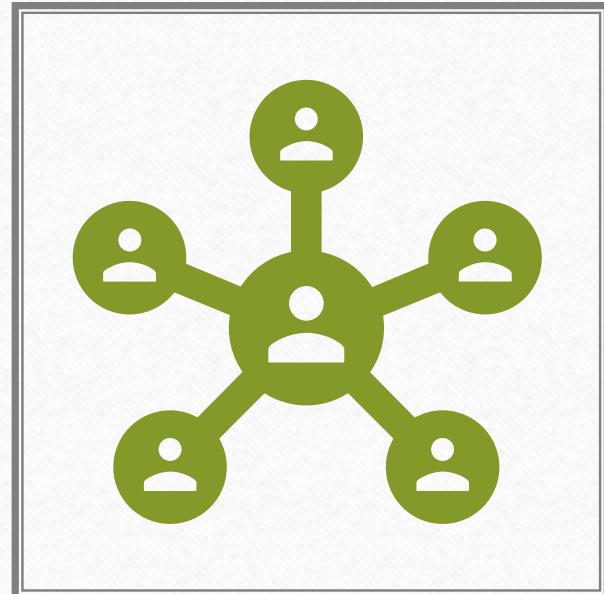
Relationship between sociology and economics

- **John Stuart Mill (1844)** defines the subject of economics in a social context as:-“The science which traces the laws of such of the phenomena of society as arise from the combined operations of mankind for the production of wealth, in so far as those phenomena are not modified by the pursuit of any other object.”



Relationship between Sociology and Economics

- In the words of **Silverman**, “Economics is regarded as an offshoot of sociology which studies the general principles of all social relations.” **Economics, therefore, is a part of sociology hence without the help from sociology; it is very difficult to understand economics completely.**



- According to **Alfred Marshall**, who was a **neo-classical economist**: “Economics is the study of mankind in the ordinary business of life; it examines that part of individual and social action which is most closely connected with the use and attainment of material requisites of well-being.”



- This shows that Economics is concerned with the **study of man and deals with their activities in the social setup** i.e. study the activities of human being in the social setup.



- According to **Prof. Robbins**, “Economics is a social science which studies human behavior in relation to his unlimited ends and scarce means which have alternative uses.” It also studies the structure and functions of different economic organizations like banks, markets etc. Therefore, economics is concerned with the material needs of humans as well as their material welfare. **It can also be understood as the science of wealth in its three stages namely: production, distribution and consumption.**



- Economics studies man as a wealth-getter and a wealth disposer. Wealth constitutes the central problem of economics. It studies the interrelations of purely economic factors and forces: the relations of price and supply, money flows, input-output ratios and the like. It studies the structure and function of economic organizations like banks; factories, markets, business firms, corporations, transport, etc. Recently economists have shown more interest in motivation behind human's economic action.

Sociology and Economics are mutually helpful

- Economics and sociology are helpful to each other. Economic relationships bear a close relation to social activities. At the same time social relationships are also affected by economic activities. Because of this close relation Thomas regarded economics as the branch of Sociology. But this is an extreme view. Economics, it may be specified here, is an independent science.

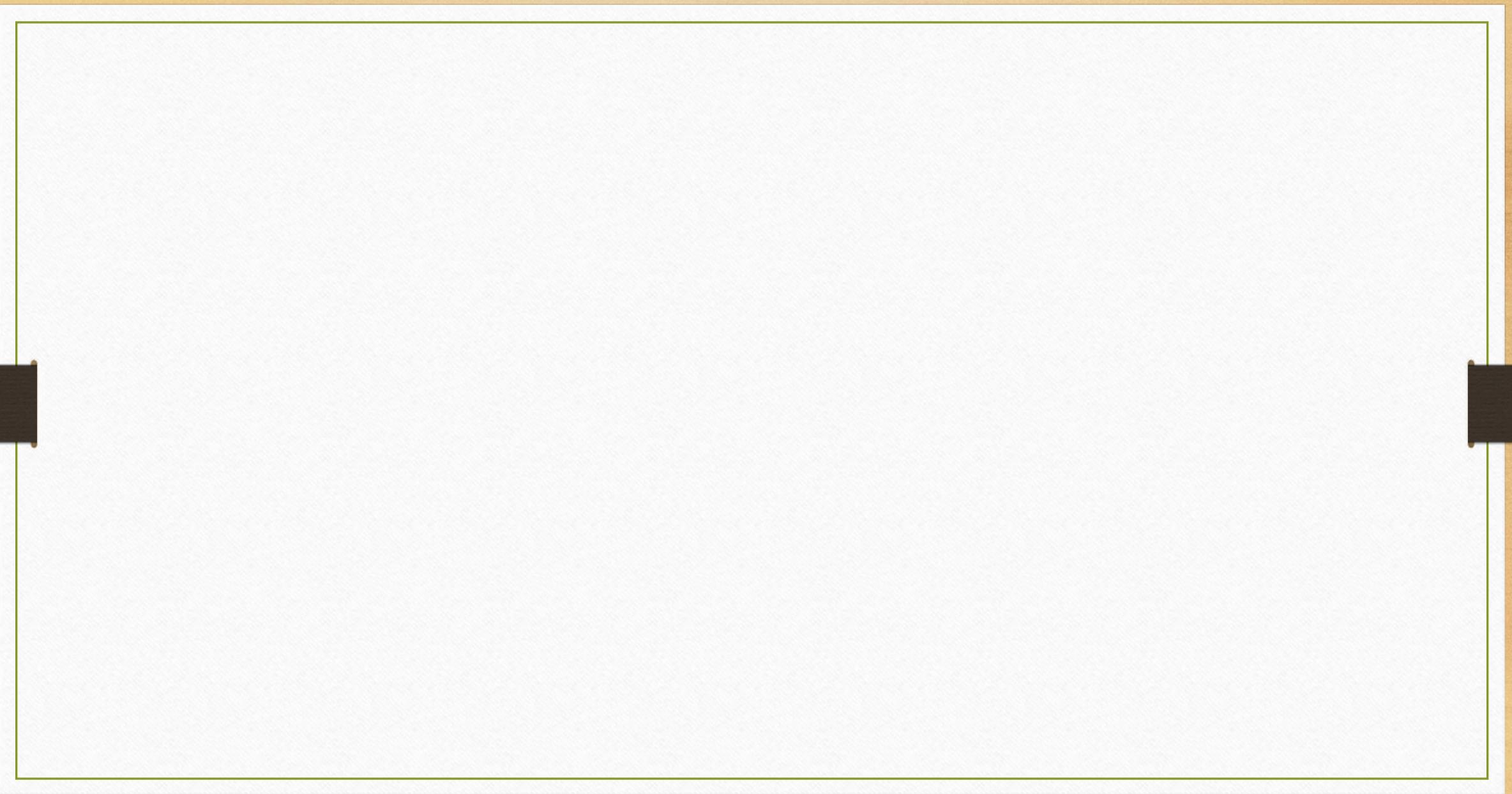
Social Interpretation of Economic Changes

- Some thinkers, like Sombart, Max Weber, Pareto, Oppenheimer, Schumpeter have explained economic change as an aspect of social change. According to them, the study of economics would be incomplete without an understanding of human society.

Social Interpretation of Economic Changes

- Economic system is embedded in the social structure as a part of it. The society, its structures, its organizations, its institutions, its strength and weaknesses etc., are bound to affect the economic activities of its people. That is why a celebrated modern economist has said that “Economics must be made the handmaid of sociology”.

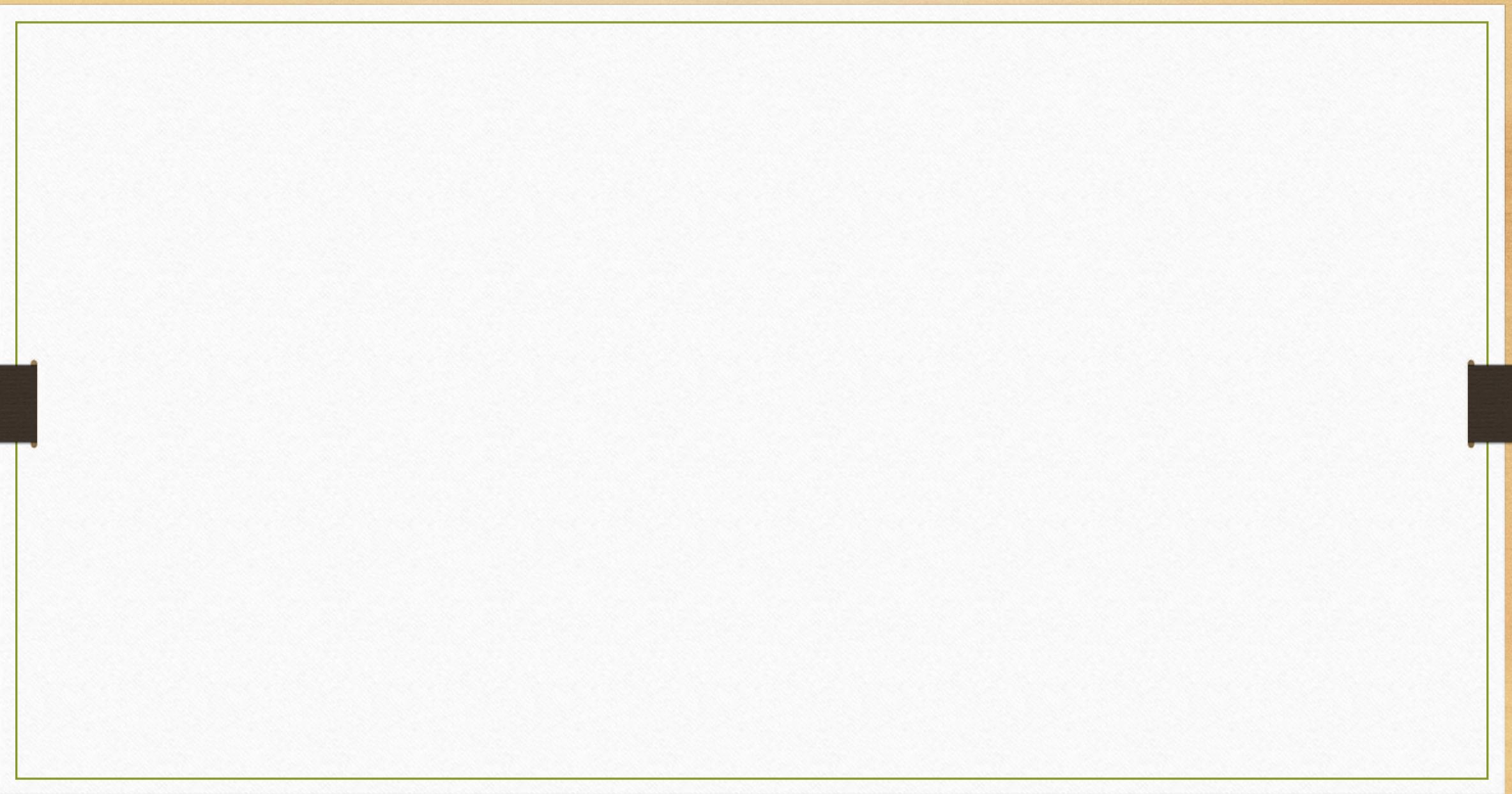
- Max Weber, a German sociologist, made classical attempt to show how social factors, and particularly, religious beliefs and practical ethics influence the economic activities of people. He made this clear in his celebrated book **The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism**. His contention is that the progressive protestant ethic provided the stimulus to the rapid growth of capitalism in the West, whereas Hinduism and Buddhism, with their fatalistic approach, failed to stimulate the growth of capitalism in the East.



Economic Interpretations of Social Changes

- At the other end, there are thinkers like **Karl Marx** and **Veblen** according to whom social phenomena are determined by **economic forces**. According to them social reality or social change can be explained in terms of economic forces.





Economic Interpretations of Social Changes

- According to Marx, the infrastructure of a society is nothing but the economic relations among its people. However, there is a growing awareness among social scientists about the mutual interplay between the economic and non-economic forces of society.



- **Sociologists have contributed to the study of different aspects of economic organization.** Knowledge of property system, Division of Labour, occupations, industrial organization, etc., is provided by a sociologist to an economist. Such matters as Labour relations, standard of living, employer-employee relations, social classes, socio-economic planning, socio-economic reforms, etc., **are common to both economists and sociologists.**

- The area of co-operation between sociology and economics is widening. Economists are now analyzing the social factors influencing economic growth. Economists are working with the sociologists in their study of the problems of economic development in underdeveloped countries. Economists are more and more making use of the sociological concepts and generalizations in the study of economic problems.

- Further, there are certain socio-economic problems of greater importance to be studied by both economists and sociologists. Such problems like poverty, beggary, unemployment, over-population, unregulated industrialization have both social and economic implications. Combined studies by experts of both disciplines in this regard may be of great practical help in meeting the challenges.

Difference between the Two

Sociology	Economics
Sociology studies all kinds of social relationships	But economics deals with only those social relationships which are economic in character.
Sociology is a general social science.	Economics is a special social science

Sociology

The scope of sociology seems to be wider. It has a comprehensive viewpoint. Sociology is a science of recent emergence.

Sociology is abstract in nature and less precise also. Social variables are very difficult to measure and to quantify.

Economics

The scope of economics is narrower. It does not have a comprehensive viewpoint. Economics has attained an advanced degree of maturity.

Economics is concrete in nature. It is more precise. Economic variables can be measured and quantified more easily and accurately

Thank you

