

A systemic study of socio-historical systems

In my opinion G.S. and Cybernetic concepts enable us to make a new start in the understanding of human systems.

Until now the following attitudes have been observed in the so-called human sciences:

- A completely abstract approach, that led to numerous partial theoretical proposals without any significant projections into real life.
- A merely observational and descriptive approach which produces an enormous lot of "data", but no coherent view of what is going on.
- Many different ideological approaches which explain us how society should be, starting from a very biased view of how it is and leading to fierce struggle between opposed groups.

Moreover all these ways have been culturocentric and are generally unadapted to other cultural settings.

Save for some very few trials, these attitudes have been visible in cultural anthropology or history as well as in social sciences.

Ecology, ethnology and psychology (among others) have not found any suitable place in relation with other human sciences.

In everyday life the would be "sciences of man" are completely ignored. People do just live and act without even posing for a moment to think about their own behaviour. As a result, incoherence and disaster are quite more frequent in the history of mankind than happy outcome. The lessons of the past, never being really understood, must be repeated endlessly.

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In order to try to contribute to the improvement of this situation. I tried to construct a set of concepts and models usable in human sciences, along the following lines:

- Defining and describing human systems of any kind by very general systemic-cybernetic models
- Identify in this way isomorphisms between human systems situations or transformations, even when they seem utterly different (Example: Is there a way to describe and understand the down fall of any culture)
- Find the basic prime movers responsible for the evolution of human systems and study the way they act
- Try to apply these tools and models to widely different situations and events in history, cultural anthropology and sociology and see if the proposed models hold
- Find out the basis of forecasting and the limits of future inquiries

In order to achieve these proposals, I had to create some new concepts, organized around the general ideas of interrelations of imperfectly integrated Systems with their metasystems, mechanisms of coherence in such systems and ways by which they can be transformed, destroyed or replaced.

I am working presently (and since about 12 years) in the following lines:

- submitting to critical scrutiny the basic concepts of forecasting (as they have been used since 1970) and reconsidering the concepts of time and determinism/indeterminism
- constructing a theory of imperfectly integrated systems
- shaping the basic concepts that in my opinion could become instrumental to:
 - 1) the basic Definition of socio-historical sciences objects of study
 - 2) the discovery of the nature and working of what I do call the "socio-historical system"

This intricate work has been object of various papers in national and international meetings (since 1980) and of three different series of lectures in Buenos Aires in 1981-83 and 1985

I am presently busy with a first global draft of the third item hereabove mentioned. The first one was the object of my essay on "Prospective" (the french concept. of "futurology")(in french 1975 - in spanish 1978) The second one exists as a second provisional draft in spanish (1982)