

August Comte

French, 1798 – 1857

Positivistic Science:

“positive” as opposed to the “negativism” of Hegel

“positive” as opposed to the destructive results of earlier French philosophy
(the French Revolution)

Positivism now associated with “scientism” and quantitative procedures

Scientific Methodologies:

- Observation
- Experimentation
- Comparison
- Historical Analysis

Social Organization – Organic Analogy

Social Statics and Social Dynamics, Social Order and Social Progress
now considered in terms of Structure and Process

The Law of Three Stages:

- Theological = Magical/Mythological (Parthenon, Athens)
- Metaphysical = Religious/Philosophical (St Peter’s Cathedral, Rome)
- Positivist = Rational/Empirical (Houses of Parliament, London)

Hierarchy of the Sciences:

- Celestial
- Terrestrial
 - Mechanical
 - Organic/Biological
 - Chemical
- Social
 - Political Science
 - Anthropology
 - Psychology
 - Sociology