SOCIAL FACTS ARE:

- WAYS OF ACTING, THINKING, AND FEELING THAT PRESENT THE PROPERTY OF EXISTING OUTSIDE THE INDIVIDUAL CONSCIOUSNESS...
- THAT FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S OWN USE OF THEM...
- AND ARE DISTINCT FROM THEIR INDIVIDUAL MANIFESTATIONS.

THEIR TWO ESSENTIAL FEATURES ARE THAT:

- THEY EXIST ONLY AT THE SOCIETAL LEVEL (characteristic of the group, not the individual)
- THEY ARE EXPLICABLE ONLY BY ANOTHER SOCIAL FACT (can be accounted for only at the same level)