The Origins of Sociology

1. What historical forces changed in the 1800s to prompt sociology?
   a. Industrialization
      Agriculture → Manufacturing
   b. Urbanization
      Countryside → City
   c. Political Change
      Monarchy → Democracy

2. Who noticed these historical changes and developed sociology into a science?
      He invented the term “sociology.”
      For Comte, science represents a stage in history:
      i. Theological stage
         Focus: Religious belief explained everything
      ii. Metaphysical stage
         Focus: Philosophy applies reason (logos)
      iii. Scientific stage
         Focus: “Positivism” – a purely scientific understanding of the world – social problems stem from social forces.
         (System of Positive Polity, or treaty establishing sociology as religion of humanity)
2. Who developed sociology into a science? (continued)

d. Max Weber, (Germany, 1864-1920), is known for his groundbreaking research on religion, the economy, and bureaucracy.
   (Theory Connection: “Symbolic-Interactionist”
   Science-Type: Interpretative/Pragmatic)

e. Early American sociologists (~1900-1950)
   Franklin Giddings
   C. Wright Mills
   Lester Ward
   Ernest Burgess
   George Herbert Mead
   Talcott Parsons
   Robert Merton
   Stanley Taylor