

## **Social action**

In sociology, social action, also known as Weberian social action, is an act which takes into account the actions and reactions of individuals (or 'agents'). According to Max Weber, "an Action is 'social' if the acting individual takes account of the behavior of others and is thereby oriented in its course".

### **Definition**

“Social action means taking steps to change the things that are wrong in our society and introducing new ideas and processes for doing things better in the future.”

- Max Weber conceived of sociology as a comprehensive science of social action.
- Max Weber began with the idea of social action to make of sociology a scientific enquiry.
- Thus the idea of action is central to Max Weber's sociology.

### **Characteristics of Social Action**

The significant characteristics of Weber's ideas are following.

- Social action may be influenced by an action of past, present or future.
- Social action presupposes the existence of other individual and some action by him.
- Necessity of subjective meaning.
- It is oriented in its course.