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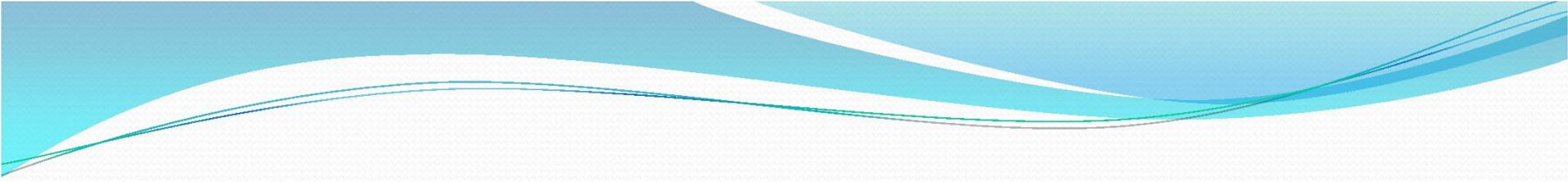


INTRODUCTION

U.G.SEM – 2

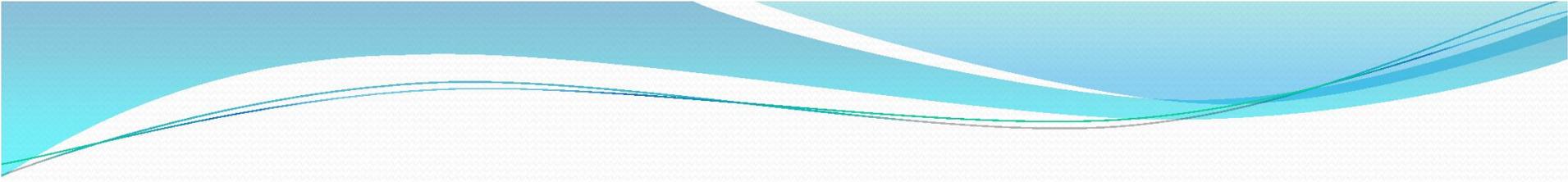
Paper – MIC

Foundation of social psychology



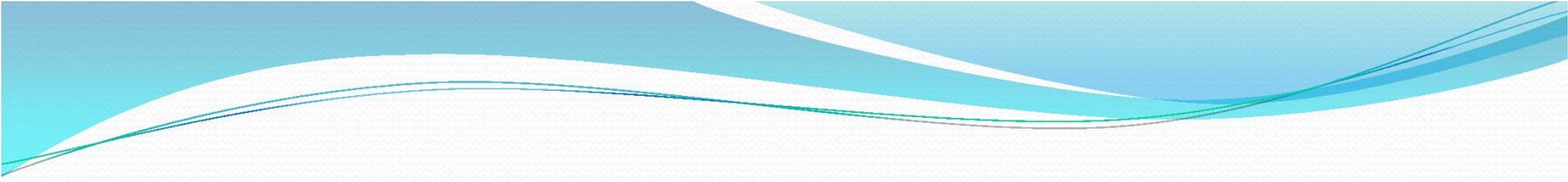
Introduction

- Every science has its own history of origin, evolution and development. Social psychology is the subject that studies the behaviour of individuals in society. In its scientific form, social psychology originated in the 19th century and developed significantly in the 20th century.



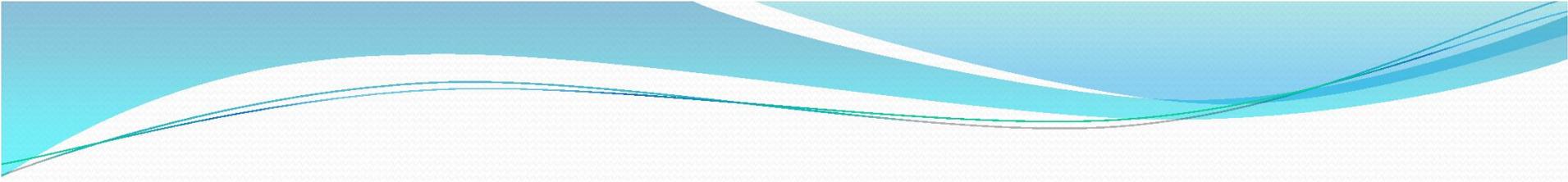
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- According to Plato, the basic foundation of man's specific social organisation is his tendency to learn. In his renowned treatise, 'Republic', Plato has presented an ideal educational system for an ideal state. He believed that an individual's behaviour is the outcome of that social system in which he has developed.



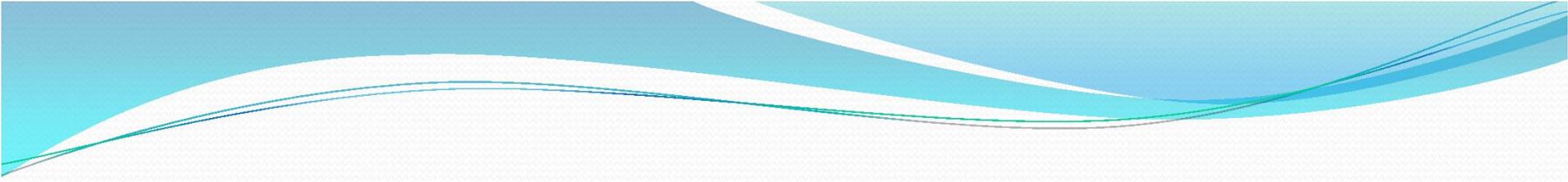
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- Greek thinkers talked of the influence of social and spiritual processes upon the conduct of human beings. They attempted to analyse human behaviour in the social situations and described the influence of socialisation and education upon the individual.



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- It is only after passing through the various stages that social psychology reached its present stage. Four scientists may be mentioned as the originators of the scientific form of social psychology - Gabriel Tarde, Gustave Le Bon, Edward Alsworth Ross, William McDougall.



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- Tarde, Le Bon and Walter Bagehot presented a psychological analysis of crowd, fashion, traditions, folkways, customs, conflicts and public opinion. William McDougall tried to explain man's social life by means of the principle of instincts.