The paths of history

When we go back in time, we will find the use of the word history, for the first time, in Ancient Greece. It originates from histor, a Greek word that means testimony. Then, the story was identified as narration, that is, the historian would be a memoralist writing, in the present, about the events of the past. Later, it continued to be understood as a narrative, but it gained a didactic purpose - to teach and create models of behavior for human beings. This way of making History, despite the changes suffered in the middle of the Modern Age, continued from Antiquity to the 20th century.

As of the 18th century, there was a history interested in explaining really significant events and in relating the facts to each other. In the 19th century, the way of thinking and writing History underwent major changes. Historians tried to establish scientific bases for the study of the facts and to discover laws that explained, always accompanied by abundant documentation.

From the twentieth century, historians, to explain the development of history, began to value economic relations between people, groups and peoples even more. Thus, it went from being just a narrative to becoming “interpretive possibilities of the past”. Therefore, it is up to the historian to interpret the human societies of the past and not just narrate the facts, dates and personalities.