

## **DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL THOUGHT UPTO 1900**

### **PHILOSOPHY**

#### **what is historical thought**

Historical thought means the search for knowledge and understanding of human life in the field of history. For example, the social, political and economic life of human being in their daily life.

#### **Types of historical thoughts**

1. Critical philosophy of history -----deals with scientific discovery and explanation of past human actions

it deals with available evidence in trying to come up with the truth in history.for example bringing the facts of the origin of human religion

2. Speculative history ----- it deals with supernatural occurrences where evidence is hard to come by and therefore people used propaganda, personal opinion or theological to explain history

#### **BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY IN RELATION TO HISTORY**

##### 1. Logic

It is the study of correct history, i.e. historical events is a product of thought. historian should be rational before drawing conclusion in any thoughts

##### 2. Epistemology

It is the study of knowledge. this implies that historian should go beyond observable facts or experience in order to obtain the real facts for example they should see what has been happening time to time to get the real truth

##### 3. Ethics

Ethic is a conduct or behaviour of human beings in a society or community.its entails what is right or wrong, what is good or bad.it is important for historians to reflect the moral values of a society in order to sum up with what is good or bad

##### 4. Metaphysics

This refers what goes on. or transformation.

Metaphor goes beyond world of science and experience. they are things that happen that we have never seen them before.for example God do exist and no one has seen him before

#### **THE MAIN PROBLEMS IN HISTORICAL THOUGHT**

#### **QUIZ 1 Dicuss any three main problems of in history**

answer

1. Historical explantion--- differing in xplanation btn diff group of historians on the same event.

Vico argued that new science (scienza nuova) is the science of the principal when man makes history. His view was that science can make it possible for man to understand why certain communities practice certain customs hence man is a creator of history. It is through history that we can understand what man did in the past therefore it fills the human nature history and analyses the nature of society that we live

### **What advice did VICO gave to historians**

1. He encourage the use of myths as a source of history because when evaluated by historians they have ability to understand the social structure of the people concerned
2. Historians are encouraged to used oral traditions for they represent the values of the societies
3. He advice historians to used inter - disciplinary and multi- disciplinary method in writing history. he argued that historians can utilised linguistics to reconstruct the past that is used of etymology
4. he advice historians to used artefacts and mediums left behind by society which may look useless to a scientist but useful to historians to reconstruct the past
5. He advocates the used of books as references to counter checked the validity of other sources
6. Historians should use archeology as a source of history
7. Be opposed to theory of diffusion of history and arguments. it denies people original creativity which they can discover independently
8. Historians should not accept everything that they are told by historical agents they should subject it to criticism
9. Historians should also utelised spirit of the time because it will be reflecting the minds of the people at that time and these can assist in the reconstruction of history
10. It is also necessary for historians to study the past in relations to general course of historical development

### **ROMANTICISM**

**George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel 1770 - 1831**

#### **Quiz**

**discuss the used of symbolism in hegelian historical thought**

According to him history is a product of reason or thought he argues that "reason is sovereign" i. e above everything. Of the world and history of the world presents us with a rational process."

The world history is a manifestation of the progress of consciousness towards the realization of complete freedom. he argues that history shows the movement of the spirit in the realisation of full freedom in the world before 1900.

In order to get this complete freedom man should be in a political system call state.