

The History of Modern Historical Studies

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Review of Last Lecture

- Value of History
 - Materials for judgment to know more about the present.
 - Guiding principle for human life (level of education).
 - Joy, leisure.
- Value of History Education
 - Creation of people belonging to a nation.
- Value of History as an Academic Study
 - Substantialization of described items or incident with confirmation of historical facts. “History is an academic discipline that reveals facts of the past” such awareness.
 - It is a service to the nation and its people.

Origin of Modern History as a Discipline

- Founded in north west Europe during the 19th cent.
- Major conditions for its formulation
 - Importance in enlightened thoughts and reasoning, scientific method of thinking
 - Approach to take the Bible as a historical document.
 - Relativity of the Christian faith.
 - Opinion that human society does make progress.
 - Development of philology(method to evaluate documents).
 - Maturing of concept “Europe”.

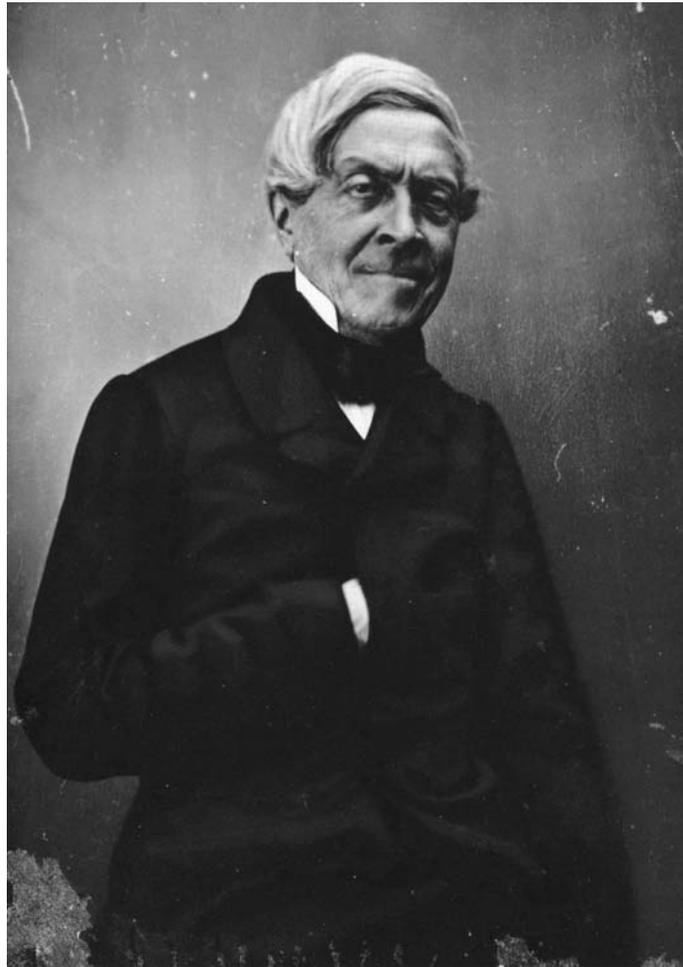
Leopold von Ranke (1795-1886)



Major Writings of von Ranke

- "History of Latin and Teutonic Nations from 1494 to 1514"
- "Critique of Modern Historical Writing (appendix to above)"
- "History of Popes"
- "History of Reformation in Germany" "History of the Prussian Monarchy"
- "Civil Wars and Monarchy in France" "History of England"
- "Universal History"

Jules Michelet (1798-1874)



Major Writings of Michelet

- "Introduction to Universal History"
- "Histoire de France"
- "History of the French Revolution"
- "La Femme"
- "The Sea"
- "Bible of Humanity"

Features of Formulated Modern History

- Historical descriptions of individual nation (Or delineate between “Europe” and “Non-Europe”).
- Criticisms of historical materials have come to think over the past “as was(as facts) wie es eigentlich gewesen ist”.
- Application of the concept of progress (introduce types of culture, undeveloped or barbarian).
- Main research theme is the Past of “Europe” and nations involved in its historical composition, in cutting edge cultural progress.

Study of History as a Discipline in the Field of Humanities

(Classification by Wallerstein)

- Disciplines that existed before the 19th cent.: Law, Philosophy, Theology
- Disciplines to understand European world that was progressing and becoming universal: Politics, Economy, Sociology, History
- Disciplines to understand Non-Europe world that was unchanging and unique: Oriental Studies, Anthropology
- Draw up a system based on “view of the world” by those who see themselves as “European”

Classification of Disciplines that Continues to this Day

- University of Oxford (Cambridge)
 - Faculty of Modern History (Historical Studies)
 - Faculty of Oriental Studies (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)
- France
 - Université de Paris IV (UFR Histoire)
 - Université de Paris III (UFR Orient et Monde Arabe)

The Background as to How Modern History Infiltrated the Non-European World

- The advancement of north west European nations into other territory with support of their overwhelming military and economic power.
- Around 1850: Non-European territories
 - Moving towards the East
 - Indian Rebellion of 1857
 - First Opium War Taiping Rebellion
 - The Opening of Japan
- Attempts of “Modernization” on the part of Non-European territories
 - Adopt political and social systems (constitution, parliament, school etc.).
 - Introduction of scientific technology and academic disciplines(Industrial Promotion Policy, military weapon, universities etc.).

The Tradition in Historical Descriptions in Japan

- China: “Records of the Grand Historian” later on the “Twenty-Four Histories”
- Japan: From “Nihon Shoki” (The Chronicle of Japan) to “Dai Nihonshi” (The Great History of Japan)
 - By introducing the methodologies of the Ching Dynasty Textual Research, a strict documentary inquiry of historical artefacts was conducted.
 - Tradition of “National History”
- 1869 “Act of Inquiring History” Establishment of the Bureau to Historiographical Proof Reading of Historical Documents.
- 1888 Establishment of a Provisional Chronology and Historiographical Compilation Institute of the Imperial University.
- The fusion of tradition of historical descriptions before then and modern history.

Study of History in Meiji Japan

- Establishment of the University of Tokyo(1878). For 2 years after onset “History Course” existed.
- Establishment of the Imperial University, history course offered at college specializing in liberal arts (1887).
 - Ludwig Riess (pupil of von Ranke) worked there as professor.
- Course in Japanese History founded(1889)
- Establishment of Oriental History Course in Kyoto Imperial University(1907)
- Establishment of oriental History Course in Tokyo Imperial University(1910)

- Academic freedom in universities

Study of Japanese History that Followed

- Research Management System remained unchanged
 - Continues still: Departments of “Japanese History” “Oriental History” “Western History”
- Changes in Secondary Education
 - Prewar: Consistency with research management system
 - Postwar: “Japanese History” “World History”
- Understanding of World History based on individual histories of cultures and nations

Is this truly the way it should remain?

Criticism over Study of Modern History

- Excessive focus on political history
- View history as progress
- Description that indicate nation-state as self-evident

- Major Sources of Criticism
 - Marxist history
 - Annales School (France)
 - Global History groups (England USA)