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Writing about History between Subjective Interpretation and Objective History

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Abstract

Writing about history remained a tense and often challenging task in the career of any researcher undertaking historical research. Its predicament does not evince through mere linguistic, epistemological and ethical challenges, but also reveals through the failure of the researcher in being impartial in interpreting facts. It is stated that the correlation between the researcher's reconstruction of historical facts and the intrusion of personal view or "moral element" contribute to the production of accurate knowledge as there exist "a hidden influence" or "inevitable subjective quality" that cannot be concealed. Yet, many others confirm that the interference of individual or personal aspect leads to falsification of facts and intellectual distortion as nationalistic, geographical, religious and cultural bias intrude into the work of the researcher. This paper draws on these two lines as to unveil the nature of history writing and the intersection between subjective interpretation and objective history. It further seeks to show that objective history is the outcome of researcher's moral assessment or value judgment and cannot be restricted to mere factual exposition and description.

Key words: History; subjective quality; moral element; objective history; value judgment