

Historiography

History

Write

HOW we interpret the past

Methods

Practices

Skills

- Influenced by time/context in which the interpretation is made



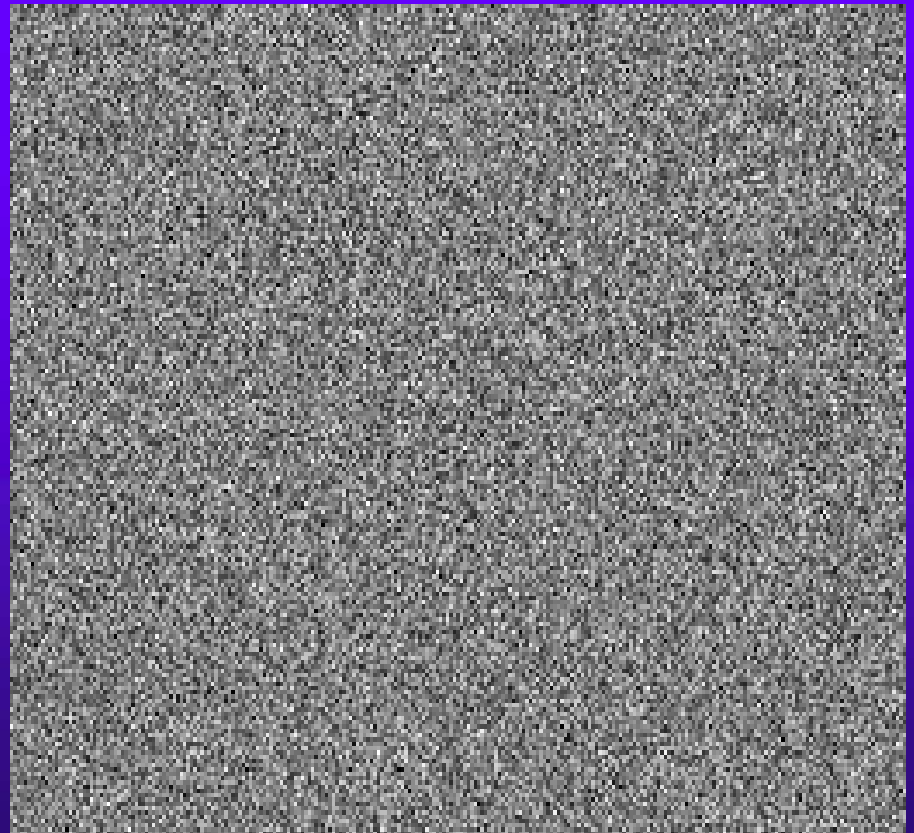


Theory of History

- ◆ General Framework Understanding of How History Unfolds
- ◆ Like Values
 - Filter for meaning-making
 - In the background
 - Multiple theories at work simultaneously

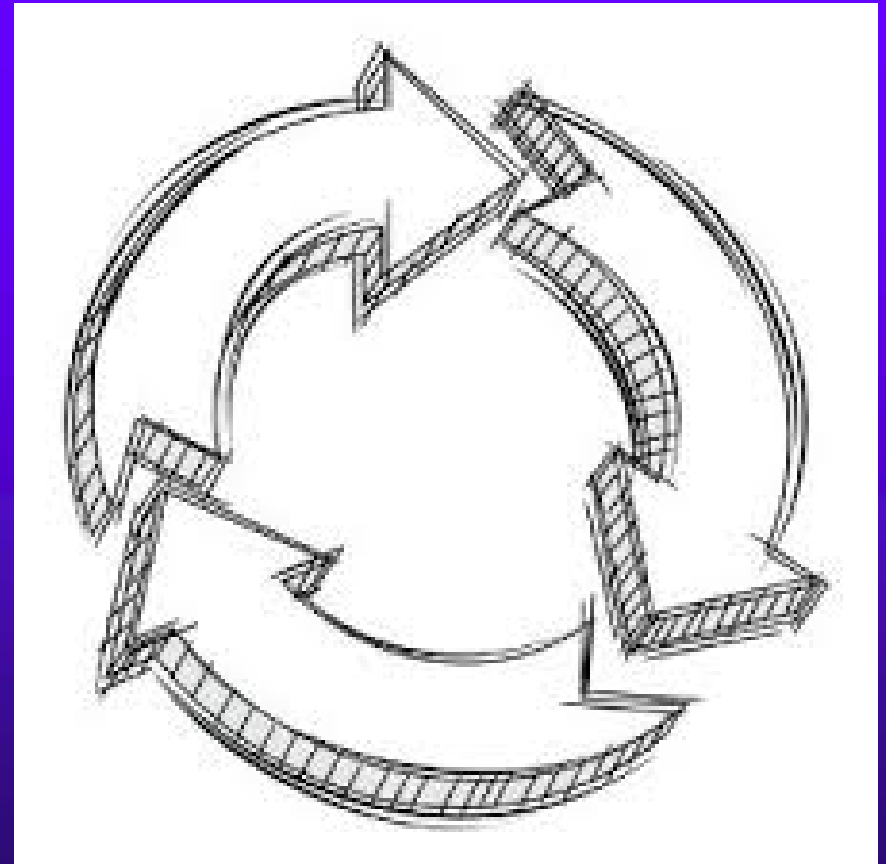
Stuff Happens

- ◆ Events happen randomly or for reasons we cannot understand
- ◆ “The will of the gods”
- ◆ “God did it”



Cyclical

- ◆ Events unfold in a cycle
- ◆ “The past repeats itself”
- ◆ Ex. Seasons
- ◆ Predictability



Linear

- ◆ Events are the effect(s) of preceding events
- ◆ Some promise explanation and prediction
- ◆ May be predictive of some end point





Progressive/Regressive

- ◆ Linear but with larger idea of progress or regression
- ◆ American culture is (in)famously progressive

Progressive



Regressive



Dialectical

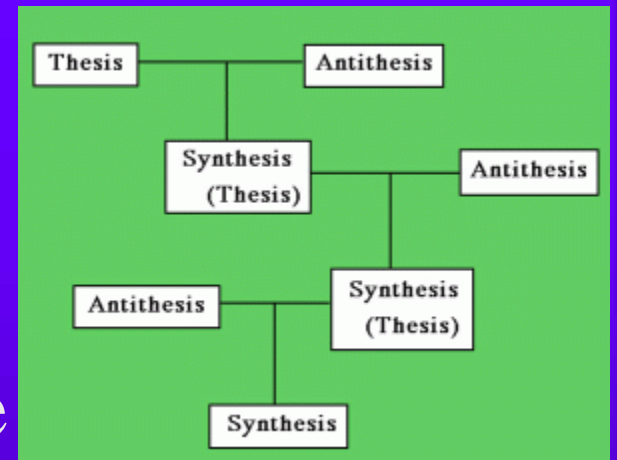
- ◆ Hegel's idea
- ◆ Marx stole it
- ◆ Combination of linear and cyclical
- ◆ Progressive, Regressive or neither



Hegelian Dialectic

◆ 3 Part Dialectic

- Thesis
- Anti-Thesis—it's opposite
- Synthesis—the union of Thesis & Antithesis
 - New Thesis & Cycle Starts Again





Dialectical Historiography

Dialectical analysis of how historical events have been interpreted

- Thesis (A)—usually soon after; becomes mainstream view (in textbooks)
- Anti-Thesis (B) —sometime later; attacks thesis interpretation
- Synthesis (C) —later still; integrates elements of thesis & antithesis interpretations

Thesis & Antithesis interpretations persist



Dialectical Historiography of American History

Thesis = Grand Narrative

- Triumphant, Positive, Americans as heroes doing great deeds

Antithesis = Revisionism

- Critical, Emphasis on historically oppressed groups, Grand Narrative = Hypocrisy

Synthesis = You