

Giambattista Vico (born **Giovan Battista Vico** /ˈviːkoʊ/; Italian: [ˈviko]; 23 June 1668 – 23 January 1744) was an [Italian philosopher](#), [rhetorician](#), [historian](#), and [jurist](#) during the [Italian Enlightenment](#). He criticized the expansion and development of modern [rationalism](#), finding [Cartesian](#) analysis and other types of [reductionism](#) impractical to human life, and he was an apologist for [classical antiquity](#) and the [Renaissance humanities](#), in addition to being the first expositor of the fundamentals of [social science](#) and of [semiotics](#). He is recognised as one of the first [Counter-Enlightenment](#) figures in history.

The Latin [aphorism](#) *Verum esse ipsum factum* ("truth is itself something made") coined by Vico is an early instance of [constructivist epistemology](#).^{[8][9]} He inaugurated the modern field of the [philosophy of history](#), and, although the term *philosophy of history* is not in his writings, Vico spoke of a "history of philosophy narrated philosophically."^[10] Although he was not an [historicist](#), contemporary interest in Vico usually has been motivated by historicists, such as [Isaiah Berlin](#), a philosopher and [historian of ideas](#),^[11] [Edward Said](#), a [literary critic](#), and [Hayden White](#), a metahistorian.^{[12][13]}

Vico's intellectual *magnum opus* is the book *Scienza Nuova* or *New Science* (1725), which attempts a systematic organization of the [humanities](#) as a single science that recorded and explained the historical cycles by which societies rise and fall.^[14]