

LECTURE 1 - INDUCTIVE & DEDUCTIVE METHODS OF STUDYING HISTORY

Two most influential schools of history in this format: Annals for inductive & Marxism for deductive (Lecture 1)

Importance of fact, progress vs decline (Lecture 2)

Stikha (Lecture 3)

Illustration (Lecture 4)

Deductive method

It moves from first principles, makes a hypothesis and check if its true or not

From first principles to facts

- Divine law → action
- Theory → Practice

If it was out of deductive reasoning abilities, it was considered ~~sen~~ in. In the modern world however, facts are presented to suit the theory (cherry picking) - how to determine validity of a-priori assumption (first principle)

system theory - mathematical modelling of a system and after this the modern method is done (verifiability and falsifiability) by testing in reality

There is a danger of determinism - you can't be sure of data.

structuralism says everything is binary.

Marxism

- Materialism

(most people use marxist method without realising it).

he says to understand the world, you go back to the first principle

- matter, atoms.

it says that matter is primary, ideas are secondary and the world is composed of matter in motion.

- Dialectics

it is the explanation of what matter does - finding the truth through dialogue (questioning).

Reality is composed of opposites & their relation.

Thesis → anti-thesis → synthesis
Matter and motion are dialectically

opposite.

this is an upward spiral.

- Labour is matter in motion.

Marx says that ideas don't come out of the blue - it is labour that leads to ideas.

eg. nobody realised that they suddenly might wear clothes - it's after covering themselves and realising it keeps them warm etc. (labour) that leads to it.

labour played a role in development from ape to men ~~for~~ (hypothesized by people after Marx)

It embodies the synthesis of matter and idea. A thought can't exist without a brain (matter), but since matter is primary, a brain can exist without thought. All human achievements are based on labour, including thought.

Dialectics in history

- emergence of contradictions
- Base - superstructure
Base is labour, superstructure is the building up on base
- surplus (importance of economy)

and production)
According to Marx, pre-history was
before surplus (when everyone had
equal number of things). History
is, when there is a surplus - some
people have more (and they labour
less) and those who labour ^{or produce} do ^{surplus}
not control surplus.

- Class struggle

Those who produce surplus do not
control it and vice versa.

- History as the resolution of
contradictions in society created
by emergence of surplus.

Slave society → Feudalism

→ Capitalism → Communism

- Unprecedented explanatory
power.

Some things were called as
powerful just because it was
unprecedented.

Marxists felt socialism & comm-
unism was inevitable (although
this is not true).

~~Historical class~~

This was amenable to verifiability
and falsifiability and not
divine laws.

Inductive method

Facts \rightarrow Generalisation \rightarrow Theory
(Machine learning without machine)

It doesn't claim certainty, no determinism, but there is probability and possibility.

Aryabhata was a deductive thinker, Galileo was an inductive thinker.

There are no a priori assumptions. You find patterns in a lot of facts.

This is empiricism - collecting empirical facts and generalising

The problem with this is - cause and effect are not pre-determined.

~~There is a difference~~

It is hard to link cause and correlation.

Another problem is that there is a confirmation bias or available information bias. There is a difficulty of explanation. (proof might not be followable)

Annales history

The two founding members started a journal. They followed inductive method.

They collected total history (including natural sciences etc.). Nothing in the world is outside history.

They said history suffered because only the stories of great men were looked at.

Quantitative history - build generalisations on a large amount of data and info.

mentalite (French word) is mental architecture. Annales history involves identifying the mental of the past.

New conception of time :

There are three rhythms of time that move in tandem

Geographical time (geographical factors that influence over time).

There is also ^{socio-economic} ~~social and economic~~ time and political time.

New sources for historical facts:

expanding the historical archive,
gathering data about geography
& climate, other disciplines and
sciences.

There is no single cause, not
given a priori but has to be
ascertained for each instance.

LECTURE 2 - HISTORY OF THE FACT

There was a huge collection of
data (church record, analysing
tombstones, wire records)

Religions explained the world
previously. The idea of the fact
has been around for a long
time - started by ancient greeks

what is fact?

A thing that is proved to be true,
information used as evidence
or part of a report/news article

Synonyms: Reality, Certitude,
Actuality.

Antonyms: Lie, fiction, myth

Truth without any interpretation.
A good fact is devoid of opinion
and perspective. They are building

blocks of knowledge

Inductive - collect facts and then interpret them

you cannot have interpretation that is factless.

'Historia': inquiry, finding out (Greek)

Herodotus wrote on the history of the wars between Greece and Persia, collect evidence, ask witness systematic nature of events. He is often called the ~~fact~~ father of history.

Thucydides: history of the Peloponnesian wars between Athens & Sparta. He believed evidence collected should be done neutrally maintain a neutral position. This type seeped into the Roman empire (which later moved to the Holy Roman empire where history was a revelation)

Fact was lost. The Persians and Arabs revived them. Through Crusade wars (between Christians and Muslims), Europe rediscovered the Greek classics.

967 - e. - Khaldun (1332-1406) was based

in Tunisia. Barbarians (nomads) fought against people.

Ibn-e-Khaldun wrote *Kitab al-Ibar* (History of the world). In his introduction (*Muqaddimah*) he says we need to find criteria to determine what two people are saying are right, principles to evaluate evidence. He categorised errors and mistakes in historical investigations. History is a 'new science' to gain knowledge.

Edward Gibbon (1737-1794) lived at a time when fact ^{the history of} near the battle. He wrote a book *Decline and fall of Roman empire* (6/v 1776-88; 6/vol). He said there were 2 sources - primary source (direct) and secondary (based on what others have written). The historian's aim is objectivity. Church and Christianity secularised.

Leopold von Ranke (1795-1886)
- facts and only facts, banish interpretation, only primary source (interrogate the source, build credibility) ^{he started}

academic journals. Sociology emerged because of this history of the Catholic popes 'marquise, objective treatment', 'without passion, without enthusiasm' - he wrote this, he himself being a Protestant. Annals drew on this.

Questioning the source: when was it produced, where, by whom, from what pre-existing material, in what form, evidential value?

Each of these questions are also a type of interpretation because they are in a certain context. So the empire of interpretation strikes back. You don't collect facts, you collect a selection (you might miss out some parts). Facts are not value free and do not exist outside our seeing. Act of recognising creates the fact. Fact is made up of smaller facts or perspective.

In essence, the facts we select (out of the universe of all facts) is determined by our assumption and interpretation and in turn determines our thinking.

What then is a fact?

There can be no neutral / objective fact.

an act, thing, event is recognised only in the world of meaning created by humans. Thus all facts are created; constituted by human actions.

That doesn't mean facts don't exist - just that humans created their existence.

Fact can be objective and impartial

Find and preserve fact

- Evidence which can be cross checked
- methods which can be scrutinised
- open and accessible standards of verifiability and falsifiability.

Facts and their importance can change. New facts emerge and old facts die.

History

History is preoccupied with fundamental processes of change

quoted by ~E.H. Carr, 'What is history'

→ reading

It is a continuous systematic narrative of significant past events. This definition doesn't talk of change (which Carr's is). The narrative must be continuous. It involves facts (what happened, why etc), interpretation (why did it happen)

2 versions of history

(i) story of decline

- Golden age in the past
- Human society is disintegrating and becoming corrupt
- Non scientific but aligned with idea of entropy.

(ii) story of progress

- Enlightenment as destiny
- Human progress inevitable
- Based on science but contrary to idea of entropy.