

Philosophy

is it philosophy?

What is it?

- LE: no definite answer
- SJS: Deeper look
- no clear answers.

why?

beginning and very negative stop

Side: many fields emerged from philosophy.

Russell's readings (already assigned). Last chapter

no settled presuppositions

- "Philosophy begins with wonder" - Plato
- "About why there is something rather than nothing"
- non axiomatic
- Question on free will, in the context of physics.
- necessarily unanswered

II critical impulse of reason
(Rationality has an inherent tendency to ask why)

"God" in Aristotle's understanding is simply first cause (prime mover)

Issue of "beginning" in temporal space.

Metaphysical impulse: impulse towards rational ground.

Sartre: Existence precedes essence
only M. humans with objects
essence precedes existence.

only???

"man is condemned to be free"

→ distinction of explanation vs distinction

to what in modern science is an explanation?

- explanation transforms to description at a higher level.
- eg: gravity is, why? ?? fact.

- we know how, not why.
- brings to light our lack of rational control.
- thus rationality.

- gap between nature and freedom
- prominent: in feminist philosophy, gender vs sex

- If we can find purpose of something, there is nothing more to know. ← ?

Fight against contingency

fact of being so without having to be
(absence of necessity?)

premodern times - religion

modern conception of rationality - science

God is the placeholder for knowledge grounds.

Plato: mathematics, etc.

Leibniz: mathematical truths are true Mally.

Explanation has roots in the designer
is the ~~usual~~ assumption
→ taken on a grand scale, is the argument from design / Teleological argument

Philosophy as pure reason is caught between criticism and engagement.

Philosophy, because inherently criticism, breaks with what's immediately given as absolute.

Why is ~~contingency~~ uncertainty inherently valuable?

- not
- or is stuck at the level of description

Ans: since philosophy is critical it is also very self critical.

- Descartes mind body problem
- physical description vs experience,

why is philosophy valuable despite its necessary failure.

use in justice while not having a conception of absolute justice.

gaps in explanation

How to go about writing.

- Keep ± 100 words within 1000
- For any direct copy, use references, quotes. Format is less important than the things itself.
 \downarrow
 Search or full.
- a. Can there be progress in...
- q. ~~Can~~ Is the end...

Previously.

- Philosophy self-critical nature bars progress
- Other Natural Sciences: set of unquestioned axioms form the basis of progress.
 "ex nihilo nihil fit"
- cycle of posing theories and tearing them down.

- Some philosophers turn away from questions of metaphysics and ~~question~~ question aspects of society, ala Socrates.
 \downarrow
 "speculation is useless, turn to the questions of human affairs."
- Russell's last chapter.

Freedom is not freedom from the world.
 The ability to take a non anthropocentric perspective on oneself
 \rightarrow contradictory to solipsism.
 \downarrow
 morality based on this is egoistic.

Socratic method.

- "Cognito ergo sum" = thinking proves self-existence.
 \downarrow
 still doubted.

Russell: The value of phil lies precisely in its reflective self-distancing from any absolute reality.

~~functional~~
 (not unique to philosophy?)

material cause, efficient cause, final cause, formal cause



Difference between pre-modern world and modern philo?

- In pre-modern, central figure was Aristotle.
 \rightarrow whether he put in place is the teleological perspective of nature and all activities
- A functionalist method of answering, also very similar to the Deontological perspective.
 \downarrow
 but he mixes contingency and necessity.

Formal cause: the form of something brings into light its reason for existence.
 (obvious for "made" objects)

Final cause: that for the sake of which something is

The Issue?

Can teleology be an explanation for this type of thinking?

Primary Critique:

teleology begs the question. Does not explain circular argument.

\rightarrow Now, without teleology there is brute matter with no reason.

Virtue ethics - Aristotle: the rational contemplation is the purpose.
 No ethics are based around that, each with their own of it and what doesn't.

• interesting point: modernity is when all proposed foundations are critiqued, and we move on to nihilism, solipsism, etc.

Disenchantment of nature: teleology is dead.

\downarrow leads to
 \rightarrow tripartism: nature is brute matter to be mastered by human reason.
 \downarrow
 Fate.

Review: Modernity vs Pre-modernity difference is the discarding of teleology

~~Current~~

Modernity: < Introduction of Brute Matter. Belliards ^{ball} ~~game~~ model, mechanistic possibility of introducing teleology >

eq of lack of progress: posit gravity, progress made but philosophically incomplete response

Discussion today: 2 camps of thought at this juncture: rationalism, empiricism

• humanity without purpose (an disenchantment of nature)

trying to reason the world without external cause.

Rationalism: deduction.

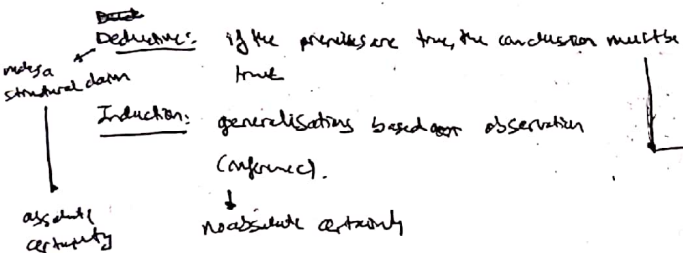
~~deduction is not a logical process~~

ruled out the uncaused cause.

Empiricism: sensory experience.

Q. Deduction vs Induction?

* All ~~major~~ major Indian schools of thought have a process for induction



eg: All S is P
A is S
so A must be P.

Analytic and synthetic judgments

of the form
"All bachelors are unmarried males"
→ tautology
Any empirical judgement we make.
why?
taking subjects, premises, and putting out new information.

two criteria of truth

<u>a priori</u>	<u>a posteriori</u>
from the definition	from experience.
[Absolute certainty, but no knowledge]	[Can be false]
analyticity	Syntheticity

Scientific arguments are synthetic.

BUT
difference with politics etc is

A scientific statement can be falsified.

Mathematics is analytic.

• it is a formal system.

What I know clearly are only my own mental representations

||
ground zero for Descartes

Deduction and intuition go hand in hand.

• pure intuition

• axiom (cannot be proved no system)

Rationalist focus: Descartes

Introduced the mind-body dualism

- he wants to find absolutely certain indubitable knowledge.
- his doubt is methodic.
- trying to find absolute grounding for any epistemic claim
- hyperbolic argument of a malicious genius
- one thing I am sure about - I am being deceived
So I must be real.
- As the activity of doubt, I exist
- thoughts may not correspond to physical reality, but self existence is real.

• SOLIPSISM

deduction is ultimately grounded in intuition

logical defence for extreme schizophrenia in philosophy.

Descartes' escape: imperfect being, independent existence of truth

ideal existence, not preference. → makes the malicious devil independent.

- Some controversial argument about God not wanting to decide.

Good \rightarrow clear existence,

Existence of any physical object (obvious existence by sense) is actually ~~an~~ existence by mind.

- The ability to comprehend something is not by sensation, but by mind - we have the capacity to comprehend.

Imp argument for ratios : experience is not enough
for comprehension

Next class: Arguments ~~that~~^{on} mind/body duality.

- } root of analytic ontology

There can be no consciousness without
self consciousness

irreducibility of the FPP

In trying to understand the world, we try to get away from our own subjectivity.

Like Copernican $e \times p$

Strong AI vs Weak AI

Strong AI: the mind is nothing but a } something passes Turing Test is acknowledging
computer program
reducible to brain
→ the ~~mind~~ program is not just simulating
the mind but is it.
if ~~an~~ a mind can be M. a set of states, a
program can do the same.

The Chinese Room argument:

→ argument that Strong AI is not real.
by ~~simulating~~ ~~processing~~ computer won't learn

Behaviorist position:

analogical transfer

no first person access, we access through behavioural
access understanding

strict behaviorist = nothing underlying this

the case for mind-brain reducibility makes sense from biological perspective.
↓
explainable assuming self as physical systems

Gap between experience and description is being raised against

↓

q. why are we so obsessed on reliance on first person perspective.

A: Sherry Turkle ~~focuses~~ adding intelligence to machines
earlier debates on whether they can think

Robotists rather focus is on whether they can behave like us

Inductive and Deductive Methods of studying History

~~The Inductive~~

The Deductive Method

→ old way

- From first principles to facts
 - Divine Law → Action
 - Theory → Practice
- To determine validity of a priori assumption
 - cherry pick facts
- The Modern Method
 - Verifiability
 - Falsifiability.

first find the truths then apply it to the world.

General thought patterns Marxism, Structuralism, Systems Theory

eg. of such: Einstein's Theory of relativity

this is based on a priori assumptions in essence belief

In the human sciences, while verifying/falsifying, there exists danger of cherry picking.

- There is a danger of determinism (looking for confirmation to theory).

as a deductive method / different from political ideology

Marxism most common way of doing history in the past.

- very influential
- but also very contentious

- Materialism (a priori assumption made by him) [first principle]

Primary: matter :: ((brain without thought can exist, but no thought without brain))

Secondary: ideas

World is composed of matter in motion

↳ is not sufficient, we said.

Dialectics

- Reality composed of opposites and their relations (matter and motion)

• Relation:

Thesis → antithesis → synthesis

- Upward spiral?

- Labour → crucial to understand human beings.

• it is matter in ~~rest~~ motion

Role, mode of App to Man - ideas came from that dialectical contradiction. } all human achievements are based on labour, ~~not~~ mediating thought.

↳ or, from labour

- Constant engagement with the world creates ideas

"the ~~key~~ key to understand history is labour" - Marx

Dialectics in history

- Contradictions arise

eg: surplus

labour → base - super structure → ideas, how to use the labour

importance of surplus

↳ to the controller?

Economy and production

- "inequality emerges when surplus emerges"

- the one who controls the surplus does not labour, and they who labour do not control the surplus

- Class struggle.

Marx's ~~own~~ schema for history Slave Society → Feudalism → Capitalism → Communism

The Inductive Method:

- From facts to generalisations to theory
- No certainty, degree of
 - possibility
 - probability
- No a priori assumptions
 - Empirical
- Can find correlations, but no cause and effect
[need deductive methodologies]
Impossible to put a causal link
- Problem: confirmation bias, available information bias
 - Difficulty of explanation

like ML, get data with patterns
eg: Galileo (vs say Aristotle)

Draw parallels to AI throughout

~~Annals to~~

Annales history

historians: Marc Bloch, Lucien Febvre, Fernand Braudel, Jacques Le Goff,
Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie

Following classic inductive method

- history should not be only political history
- Total history

for further, gather as much information about this

- Nothing in the world is outside history

groundbreaking in

more than the famous
sociology
outside humans

- Quantitative history
 - build generalisations on large amounts of info
- Mentalité
 - identify the mental architecture of the past [how to experience something with wildly different faculty?]
- New conceptions of time
 - three rhythms of time moving in tandem
 - Geographical time: centuries, millennia
 - erosion
 - existence of man or man
 - ^{and Economic} Social time: - capitalism
 - modernism, etc
 - ~~Economic time~~
 - Political time:

New Sources for historical facts

Output of this

Revelation of the
mini
the age

- Expanding the historical archive → to general humans making references on etc beyond politics
- Geography and climate
- Romanist disciplines
- No single cause.

20.1.14

History of the fact as a historical method.

- Review of last class
- Stress on inductive being very new
- Especially because a lot use also is deductive.
- Although stress started with Greeks

What is Fact?

- Very known/proved to be true
- Information that can be used as evidence
- Antonym (for history): interpretation

→ Deductive methods put interpretation first.
→ Inductive reaches for fact first.
good fact lacks interpretation
but
good interpretation is built on facts.

History:

← 16th century. →
past present.
History ≠ History.

Ancient Greece and the Birth of the Fact (~ 300 BC)

Famous historians — Herodotus, Thucydides
Based on collected evidence.
History of wars of Greece, Persia.
History of Peloponnesian Wars.
highlighted top of ~~neutral~~ position
Collect facts, evaluate, be neutral.

(Soon after, History of such associated into Revelation.)

Resurgence of the Fact: (late 14th century)

Ibn-e-Khaldun → from Tunisia, crucial in reintroducing history to fact to Europeans (and in general)

decided to write a history of the world

— Largely revelation

— tries to evaluate.

— in introduction (Muqaddimah) wrote down his methods } did not do this as much
for evaluation. } but was alert

- Principles to evaluate evidence
- categorization of errors → recognising them

— partisanship
— beliefs

History as a science to gain knowledge.

Fact: (mid 19th)

Gibbon

History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.

- distinguished primary source, secondary source.
- Objectivity as historian's goal.
- Secularised Christianity too.

Only Fact: (19th century)

Leopold van Ranke

Facts only, is the historian's concern.
Historians have no place for interpretation
Only the primary sources
No passion

Ending the Fact

Questioning the source

→ } all. Also, a form
of interpretation.

(of Interpretation)

Empire Strikes Back

- Facts are not value free
- " do not exist outside of our seeing
- Facts are made up of smaller facts
Respective / Interpretation,

So.

What is Fact? (Spiegelberg: everything)

- there can be no neutral, objective fact
- an act is recognised only within world of meaning for human beings.
- Facts are constituted by human actions
- Facts can be objective, impartial. → both use have limits to each.
- Still possible to distinguish between fake and genuine fact

the concept of a meaningful fact

How to find and preserve facts

- Evidence that can be cross checked
- Scrutable methods

- Facts change.
- Importance changes.

What is History?

E.H. Carr, What is History.

"History is preoccupied with fundamental processes of change"

Facts: (what) where? who? when? How?

Interpretation: why?

TWO VISIONS OF HISTORY

The Story of Decline

- the "Golden Age" of the past
- human society degenerating
- aligned with entropy, non scientific

The Story of Progress

- Enlightenment as destiny
- Human progress inevitable
- Based on science as method, contrary to entropy.

1.2.19

History in India looking at how the discipline of history developed in India

Hindu

- the myth of the eternal return. } Yugas (from modern perspective)
- Massive cosmological cycles, no distinction b/w human time.
- Texts: Smriti (oral traditions, authoritative but authorless)
- Smriti (written, author known but derivative, pre-exist)
- Revelation, no rational investigation

Buddhist Traditions

- looking at life as lived, even drawing references
- remained cosmological history was about finding moksha

Orientalists

Europe: rising, based on mercantile capitalism

India, China sources "physical lands".

Europeans trying to escape Arab middlemen → they wanted access to India

were interested in Indian society and history, worked hard getting all that information

Asiatic Society, 1784

Liberals and Utilitarians → deeply influenced by the European Enlightenment

- James Mill, The History of British India, 1806-1817
- Never set foot in India, knew no Indian language, thus claimed objectivity.
- claimed Indian culture was brutish, savage, backwards.

First Action: Ban of Sati

Macaulay

- Minutes on Education
 - Legal Code
- } Basis of current Indian Education and Legal Codes

British View - An extension of Liberalism and Utilitarianism

The concept of Periodisation → based on Religious affiliation

- Hindu India from the beginning
- Muslim India from the 10th-11th centuries
- British India as modern and progressive

The "Victory of Conservative Liberalism" in 1857.

- Entrenched a sense of Indians' Aryan sense of superiority.
- Gazetteers and settlement reports } need to collect more facts.
- Census 1872, then 1881 } organisation of the facts

Three axes: Religion, Race, Language.

Important Milestones

- Brahmi, Kharosthi Script } for more than 1000 years, script of Sanskrit.
- James Prinsep } led to discovery of Ashoka's Rock Edicts. When they did not know Ashoka.
- Devanampriya Piyadasi }
→ till 1870s-1880s that they had a clue they existed.
- Archaeological Survey of India
- Alexander Cunningham
- History Depts in Calcutta, Bombay University.
- Indian History, Indology in English, German, other langs.
- Mohenjo Daro, Harappa.
- bricks
- 1921-22, discovery of cities
- National Archives
- Imperial Records Dept.

One of the reasons so much of Indian Nationalism is based on the Marquis is because it was amaze?

Main "Schools" of Historical Study

- because of the amount of people studying.
- British
- National
- Marxist
- Subaltern

Diff. in

- perspective
- methods.

British / Colonial History

- Claimed no "Indian" identity
 - too disparate.
 - administrative marker.
 - Empire, not Nation
- Oriental Despotism, Village Community
- Continuation in the Cambridge School
- Claimed Indians wanted negotiable place, not independence
 - only elites ("brown on the outside, white on the inside")
 - "Seditious..."

Nationalist History:

- "His understanding of the British is very opportunistic"
- there exists some historical unity to the geography
- stress on unifying factors, not sure which
 - unifying empires
 - unifying ideologies
 - " culture.
 - " language
- Sought causes for conquest
- Worked to write one Indian history.
- Romesh Chander Dutt, Jadunath Sarker → wrote perspective of Hindus as 1
 - Muslims, Rajputs, Shisgi, Bengal, Ecanthists, Syncretic Sources.
- Jawaharlal Nehru → wrote from self centered geographical area of people.
 - Discovery of India.
- Romila Thapar, Bipin Chandra

Term:

E. H. Carr, What is History (1, 2, 3 Chaps)

Macaulay's "Minute on Indian Education"

5.2.19 Some Historical Milestones

- looking at Indian history
- a few related things

River Basins

- Self contained life sustenance
- Divided by mountains, forests
- Places for people to stay: prehistoric, in forests.
Areas of local collections
- sustain agriculture, trade, manufacturing, other, skills,

- The Indus, as ~~far as we can tell~~
as far as we can tell, had no such
forests.

• The greatest deforestation in human history.

Q. Why India named so?

A. Two ways of entering India: → coastal
→ Hindu Kush

River basins are localising factors.

Observe the ganges basin, "~~Heartland~~" "Hind? heartland". All major Indian Empire centered.

The ganges and Indus plains are absolute units.

• every major state in the ganges valley was very successful as they "plugged" the Khyber pass.

- they were initially very very forested.
- fire and iron was needed to clear the area.
- Again
- After a millennium or so, the surplus started moving to the parting state state.

→ because: → crossed the Indus into the Indo Ganges Plain

Mapping with Mountains → forests → ~~Less~~ Agriculture

River, Food, Art, Modern → An interesting way to look at India's history, the conflict among all.

- Conflict, forest and agriculture.
- Complement, " " "
- Drivers: life sustaining, history -
- " : " herding, driving (as a border)
- Monitors: protectors, landmarks, boundaries

philosophy attending humans as we are
would speak that by accident to us like,
and we might not necessarily be there it is wrong.

Free provisions: Reti kapda nahin

→ last few thousand years only humans living outside of forests.

Constant in Indian history: the plants taking over the forest.

Movement and Stability

- Constant debates
 - first humans: 1.8 m years
 - starting 75k years back
- over 25000 years 4 large population groups
 - Ancestral North Indians (mostly higher castes)
 - " South Indians (" 2nd - 12th)
 - Tibeto-Bernese
 - Austro-Asiatic

Except 1 group of Nagas and Thakins, every body has mixed DNAs.

pg: 2/3rds of Kachemuri DNA is Ancestral South Indians

- Settled and Nomadic populations

Endogamous groups are very recent.

Migrations, Travel

- Endogenous communities emerge with settled architecture
- Constant movement
 - better conditions
 - escape from state power

Geography, History, Society

of major Empires

- Indus / Ganges Valley centralisation, changed with the arrival of the British. (Spearhead persons)
(Cholas exception)
But Valley Empires the central thing till 19th century.
- British grew from sea coast.
 - changed the political geography
 - reduced importance of the flood plain.
 - new routes (travel and trade) opening up