

INTOLERANCE IN OUR JUDGEMENT OF THE PAST

(Summary)

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This essay puts the question "Why there is intolerance in the attitude of society towards its past?" The answer is searched in the nature of History as knowledge and selfknowledge and its special place among other Human sciences and in some characteristics of the functioning of social organisms.

The conclusion is reached that it is present activities that determine the attitude towards the past. But the present is not only deeds but also wishes, it is not only rational but irrational too. That is why History is far from being a pure science — like a mirror it reflects what we were, along with what we desire to have been. On the other hand, when the problems of society are bigger than its capability to deal with them, it needs a strong, attractive idea to organise and preserve it. But when this idea is not in conformity with the real potentials, it is easily turned into dogma, intolerant to everything that confronts it.

That is how the present projects ghosts in the future, which throw their shadows over the past.

THE HISTORIAN'S THREE BODIES

TÓTH GÁBOR

This paper, dedicated to the memory of the eminent Hungarian historian Jenő Szűcs, is an abridged version of a more detailed study in preparation.

My long-term purpose is to elaborate a reliable theoretical framework with the object of understanding the structure of existing theories of "feudalism".

In the present essay I set myself a twofold aim. On the one hand, I attempted to explain the surprising success of Jenő Szűcs's *The Three Historical Regions of Europe* (also available in French under the title *Les trois Europes*) among "traditional" historians. On the other hand, I have tried to reconstruct the intellectual background in which the elements of the theory of the three regions originate. I have also tried to draw attention to the line of fracture in the body of Hungarian historical scholarship caused by the results of Szűcs's work.

My methodology, the "bodily metaphor", is borrowed from medieval political thinking which, as it appears to me, fits the best to the topic in question.