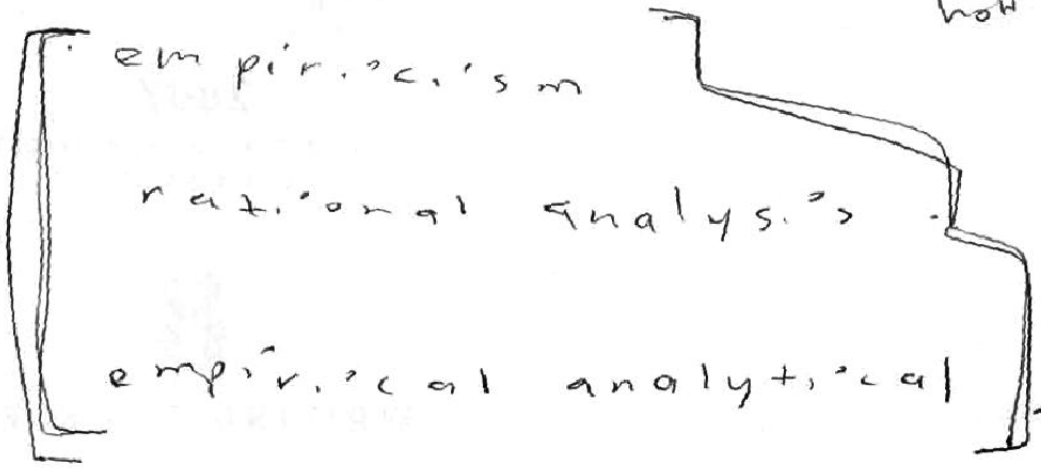


Evaluate the state of the historian



how can we be sure  
empiricism?  
trust of sources?  
interpretation -  
locate - represent

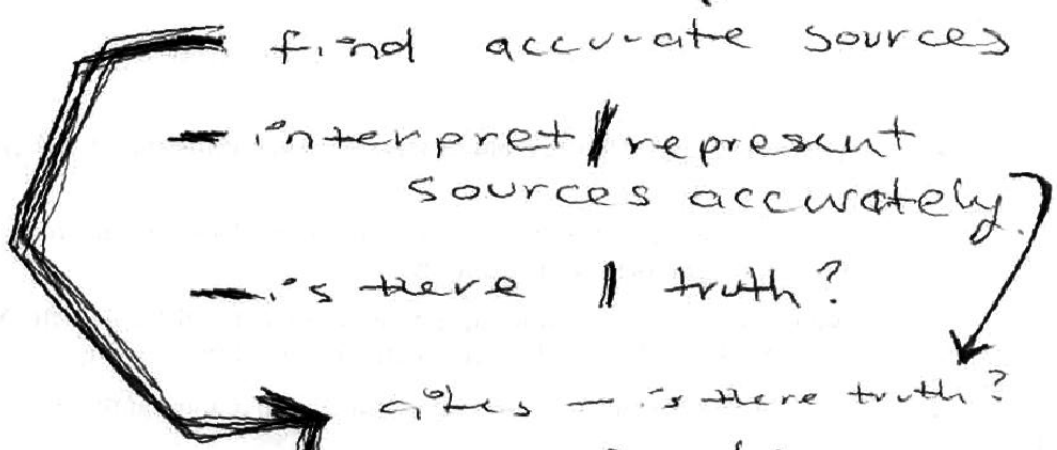


... heavily debated.

- Hershelotus
- Bede
- Von Kanke
- Marx
- P. Mo

Questions:

Where does meaning come from?



- interpret/represent sources accurately
- is there a truth?

is there truth? - empirical

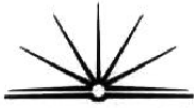
2. interpretation  
windschuttle → ranke  
jenkins  
history is  
although  
the adm. on. station



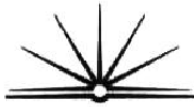
In an evaluation of the role of the historian in the production of history the ~~must now raise~~ ~~an issue~~ ~~pertaining to the ability of the historian to locate sources of historical evidence and then to analyse these citing the dates the age~~ ~~old debate as to the nature of dates the fundamental ambiguity of the nature of history as the greatest obstacle.~~ The issues of note from the passage ~~ask the~~ ~~question~~ the relevance of the role of historian in relation to the debate surrounding the inherent nature of

History itself and the philosophical debates surrounding whether or not its roots lie in any one absolute truth, and thence from that discussion, ~~being~~ based <sup>on</sup> ~~from~~ the axiom that there does lie a fundamental truth, does ~~the~~ the historian then undermine this by submitting it the engowrs of a context based analysis?

Ans. In debating the issues, ~~arguments are raised~~ that ~~each~~ historians from the Ancients to today's post modernists have presented views that both support the role of the



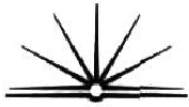
historian as ~~is~~ interpreter  
as pivoted to humanity's  
understanding of their  
story, and those who call  
more ~~for~~ for the erasure  
of the interpretive presence  
in order to facilitate ~~the~~  
access to a 'pure' history.  
~~Therefore, the role of the~~  
~~historian~~ Despite ~~the~~ debate  
~~as to the accuracy~~. However,  
through both sides of  
the debate, it can be seen  
that despite a desire to  
remove historical opinion  
and bias by the empirical  
camp, this objective has  
yet to be achieved and  
can be seen in itself as  
arising from the objects



of context on the historian, therefore, ~~to~~ it is argued that the interpretative role is of importance to the historian as it is not only deepens the study of history but is intrinsic within its nature.

The beginnings of the debate between empirical and analytical history can be seen in the works of Thucydides as the first to propose a 'scientific' approach by the historian as compiling history. In this way, Thucydides' argument lay in the use of research and document

use as the basis for history and he aimed provide an 'exact account' of events so as to be used for posterity. ~~This history however, was written to be used.~~ This approach was formalised by von Ranke, a German historian in the 19<sup>th</sup> C who aimed to show history 'as essentially it was.' In this way, he advocated heavy use of sources, ~~and~~ and document analysis, ~~the trend in~~ fuelled by the growing trend in the establishment of archives at the time. His idea of the role of the historian was as a medium, not



unlike Munster's 'midwife' who would deliver the history untainted. He aimed to 'extinguish' himself to 'let things speak.' However, he also noted the difficulty in doing so. His Lutheran upbringing and nationalistic tendencies provided ample ~~agents and~~ opportunities ~~for~~ upon which to stumble on the road to objectivity and thus, ~~he~~ Ranke ironically <sup>and self-admittedly</sup> could not leave and definitive evidence, or examples of this theory in action. Testifying against the evaluation of the role of the historian as an unbiased

medium.

~~This view is~~ Despite this  
his view has been incredibly  
influential upon historical  
thought and can be seen  
to this day in the works  
of modern historian Keith  
Windscuttle who, in fact,  
elaborates upon the issue  
in his retort against  
~~the force~~ the forces of  
post modernity. ~~and~~ He  
states that, 'although  
theories and values might  
inspire an historical  
project, ~~it~~ in the end, it  
is the evidence that  
determines what ~~is~~  
~~can~~ [conclusions can be given].'



In this he defends the empirical view of history by attesting that ~~is not~~ <sup>numerical</sup> evidence and the like cannot be manipulated or rebutted and therefore, the role of the historian

~~from~~ into the analyst side of debate fall those who attempt to learn from history, and those who simply rebut the concept of historical truth. Of the first fall those such as Marxist historian



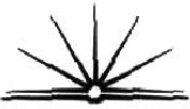
Hobsbawm, a significant academic historian who cites Karl Marx as a key inspiration in his approach to history. Marx stated that 'history is economics' and from this principle generated a social philosophy that he attempted (with rather unfortunate success) to sell to the world.

Hobsbawm applies this idea of the historian as analyst and teacher to his own works which deal with the realms of so called 'big history' and are entitled with such headings as, 'Age of Empire'

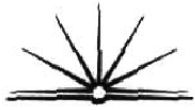


and 'Age of Extremes.'  
Although this form of  
analysis lends a certain  
acknowledged subjectivity to  
the work, Hobsbawm maintains  
the relevance of these  
inferences and the intellectual  
satisfaction to be gained  
from ~~the~~ the debate such  
analysis and interpretation  
arouses. In this history  
is defined as an intellectu-  
al ~~and~~ discipline with  
practical applications  
and the role of the historian  
~~as~~ as those who apply.

In the second role fall the  
post modernists, ~~of~~ in  
particular Keith Jenkins



of a Professor of Historical  
Theory in the UK. He  
states on the nature of  
history that, 'the past  
and history float free  
of each other, they are  
oceans and ages apart.'  
From this lack of discernable  
unity in history Jenkins  
suggests that the  
role of the historian is  
to do ~~what~~ what they can  
with the evidence involved  
~~and~~ yet to justify each  
action and to draw attention  
not only to ~~the~~ areas of  
ambiguity within the  
source material, but also  
in the historian's own  
methodology. ~~Thus~~



Therefore, the role of the historian hinges on an historian's own interpretation of the nature of history and their ability to manifest that into their own works. In assuming absolute truth exists, both von Ranke and Windschuttle are unable to apply this theory giving the ideologies of those such as Jenkins and Hobsbawm further credence.