

Jörn Rüsen

*Rimozione del dolore e bisogno di consolazione nel pensiero storico.*

*Perorazione per una revisione categoriale*

Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, Deutschland

e-mail: joern.ruesen@kwi-nrw.de

In the effort of making sense of the past reconstructed by it, the historical thought has been characterized so far by a manifest repression of the human pain, which cannot be eliminated from one's own vicissitudes or from the historical experience. In modern historical thought such a repression is a result of the bourgeois conscience of history, as it is shown by the exemplary cases of Herder, Hegel and Ranke. The case of Burckhardt is different. His theoretical sensitiveness toward pain in history ceases only by contemplating universal history as an aesthetical form. Nowadays, even on the basis of the twentieth century events, such a repression is no longer tolerable. Beginning from the very experience of the people who have been victims of pain, the historical thought should commit itself to reducing the pain in human experience and change it in a constituent category of its own. There are weak signals in this direction.