



"Should Key Events In The Historical Development Of Areas Of Knowledge Always Be Judged By The Standards Of Their Time?"

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Abstract

An important dimension pertains to the fact that knowledge is vast and there are many angles that need to be appreciated with regard to the manner in which the history is to be investigated and probed. The present study seeks to unravel the ways in which knowledge acquisition is impinged upon by the historical trajectories. Given the fact that history is too vast and moves in a diverse manner across time and space, the same aspect needs to be probed at length. The study concludes with directions for further research and implications.

Keywords: History, Trajectory, Evolution.

Introduction

Events are traced in line with their historical evolution and this implies that the timing of the occurrence of the events get due significance. With the underlying knowledge areas of history and religion, the essay seeks to underscore the significance of appreciating the timing of the key events while tracing the historical evolution of these key events. Picking examples from the two knowledge areas, it is substantiated how the main argument of the essay holds together. I have read a lot about historical events like the world wars, great depression, colonial wars and the like (Hobsbawm, 2021). In all these instances, I have been able to underline the role of the protagonists who are leading these events as well as the time in which these events happened to take place. Besides, I have also realized that events hold a unique degree of specificity about them. Implicitly, what is true for the French Revolution of the 17th century may not have been true if similar revolutionary activities would have occurred in US of the same period! Similarly, events in the growth and expansion of several

religions may be attributed to their timing of occurrence. From my personal experience, my family holds entirely different religious observances in line with the tenets of Christianity in stark comparison with those of my neighbors who practice Islam. Implicitly, the two religions hold different dogmas which are contingent upon their evolution and expansion in different time periods. Overall, the historical development of the events is very much a function of the time when they might have occurred.

Body

Exploring the argument advanced in the essay a bit further, it may be underlined that history in itself is a diary of events and every page of this diary is written by a different author at a different or same place. Look at Hitler of Germany who had been instrumental in shaping the destiny of Germany before and during the Second World War. I have read his autobiography and I can make a sharp analogy as to the personal circumstances like his upbringing and discrimination being faced by him in his own homeland which might have goaded him to be bestial to anyone who was not thorough-bred "Aryan". Hitler's domestic and foreign policy was aligned to meet his ends while subscribing to glorification of Germany. All the events of the 18th and 19th centuries which pertain to the rule of Hitler may be ascribed to the period in which Hitler lived. However, a counter-argument may arise which might ascribe the occurrence of events to the protagonist and not to the time period. For instance, it might be counter-argued that events during the period of Hitler's reign may be ascribed to the overall personality of Hitler and not to the time period in which he belonged.

Take religion as a knowledge area now. All of us have been bewildered to witness the magic, witchcraft, sorcery and miracles from time to time. For any supra-natural happening to occur, it is important that the timing be kept into consideration. Therefore, a magician's wand may be effective in one situation but it might not work in another. I have visited many magic shows and I have perceived that a magician who might have worked very well with the assistants in one country at the night time might not be successful in performing the same magic tricks during the day time with the same assistants in another country. Again, timing is crucial for magicians here. However, a counter-claim may be offered wherein it might be argued that a magician's tricks should be attributed to a magician's dexterity and not to the timing of the event. It is also possible that the assistants who are quite active during the night time might not be active in the day time. Therefore, where is the question of timing here? It is all about the person manning the event!

The aforesaid examples hold water for substantiating the main argument in the essay. However, we need to remember that perceptions are always biased. Take these examples again. Taking the occurrence of Second World War from the perception of Hitler, would he perceive that Second World War was a necessary step for Germany's salvation? For Hitler, his action in domestic and foreign affairs may be appropriate whereas for the other political

leaders, his action may be wrong. So, the occurrence of a single event is polarized and biased in terms of the perceptions of the onlookers and the chief protagonist. Thus, for Hitler, it was an opportune time for him to wage war and form allies with like-minded countries. Likewise, for the example taken in the context of religion, a magician may perceive his dexterity differently and for him, timing might actually be important for the success of his magic tricks. But, for his assistants, magic tricks might not be conducted by them in the night time and they might prefer day time. Therefore, perceptions become different and there is a tendency of biasness to creep in. Nonetheless, the significance of timing holds critical in both the cases.

Conclusion

Overall, it is concluded that the occurrence of any event should be appreciated and assessed in terms of the time in which it might have occurred (Coffin et al., 2005). Nothing happens without a reason and every incident is uniquely dependent upon that reason. That is the reason why it is said that events have causality. Nonetheless, to an individual in another context, my argument might appear biased and she might say that all events are not causal and there is no significance of the time factor. She might, for instance, argue that history and religion are subjective knowledge areas and therefore my argument would lose its strength in the context of the objective knowledge areas like natural sciences and math. She might say that a math formula for vector addition remains the same since ages. However, to substantiate my claim, I would say that a vector addition formula may have remained unchanged with time but the advancement in technology over the ages has helped in solving complex problems easily. Therefore, the significance of timing holds criticality, nevertheless, even in the natural sciences.

References

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