

PHD RESEARCH

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The public use of history : nation and Europe in the works of Blok, Lamprecht, Lavisse, and Pirenne; Ferry and Rüsen - [Original Title : *L'usage public de l'histoire. Grammaires de la nation et de l'Europe chez Blok, Lamprecht, Lavisse, Pirenne; Ferry et Rüsen*]

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The public use of history is related to the creation of a historical consciousness in society. During the period 1870-1920, this was principally oriented towards the creation of a national consciousness by showing the continuity between the past and the present. The national histories of the Liberal historians, Blok, Lamprecht, Lavisse, and Pirenne, which are at the heart of the analysis, best demonstrate the double purpose of such historical writing, which was primarily intended to establish history as a science without, nonetheless, neglecting its civic purposes. Their historical writings also showed the interrelatedness between European countries, which served also as a plea for the maintenance of peace. At the end of the twentieth century, the philosophers, Ferry and Rüsen, reflect on the atrocities of that period of history, in particular the Holocaust, by paving the way for a responsible historiography, which aims for the mutual recognition of the differences among cultures and countries and looks to the construction of a European civic society. In both cases, historians and philosophers ascribe to history an ethical value for the sake of humanity.