



"HISTORY IS PHILOSOPHY TEACHING
BY EXAMPLES" Thucydides

Development of Philosophy of History Since 1900

John Koskey Chang'ach

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I dedicated this book to my late dear mother Susan Kobilo Chang'ach who passed on, on 18th September, 2013 for being the pillar of our family and her love of education.



Saisere Kogo - Rest in Eternal Peace

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Preface

For a long time now, the exercise of Teacher Education, there has been and still is a marked shortage of the supply of relevant text books in many areas which deal with the preparation and production of history teachers. It is in pursuit for the satisfaction of the supply in this area which makes the advent of this book a very welcome issue in Kenya's and international academic fields. Hence, the arrival of this book "*Development of Philosophy of History Since 1900*" makes a great academic and professional contribution in this area.

The contents of the book, as well as the order of presentation are derived from the stock of knowledge and experience inherent in the courses of the Department of History, Political Science and Public Administration; which by nature of its position in education is a base factor for creation and development of effective standards and professionalism in history teachers.

The book is the first of its kind with sample questions in each chapter and for setting out and establishing a systematic study in the field of progressive changes which take place in human societies throughout human history with regard to developmental changes in history throughout all generations.

Since it is a detailed study of progress of history, from the 1900 to present, this book becomes a must material for studies in history, teachers of history, history students and educational professionals. Therefore, the book is appropriate for every form of academic pursuit.

Revision questions have been included in each chapter and at the end of the book to help the history student evaluate his/her understanding of all the topics in the course. The questions will also come in handy while revising for end of semester examinations. At the end of the book, a bibliography is provided to

enable the students of history and their lecturers to make reference and undertake further research to enrich their knowledge.

Preamble

Purpose of the Course

To enable learners understand and appreciate the historical and philosophical underpinnings in the development of philosophy of history, since the 1900 to the present.

Objectives of the Course

The objectives of this course are to:

- State the meaning and purpose of History.
- Outline the contribution of causation, explanation, objectivity and truth to the development of Historical thought.
- Outline the ideas of various thinkers from different parts of the world on philosophy of History.
- Describe post modernism and deconstruction in the development of Historical thought since 1900.
- Demonstrate the view of Francis Fukuyama on the future/end of History.

Expected Learning Outcomes of the Course

By the end of the course, a learner should be able to:

- Discuss the meaning and purpose of History.
- Explain the contribution of causation, explanation, objectivity and truth to the development of Historical thought.

- Analyze the ideas of various thinkers from different parts of the world on philosophy of History.
- Explain post modernism and deconstruction in the development of Historical thought since 1900.
- Assess the view of Francis Fukuyama on the future/end of History.

Course Content

Meaning and purpose of history; causation, explanation; objectivity and truth; the ideas of R. G Collingwood, Benedetto Croce, Arnold Toynbee, Carl G. Hempel, William Dray, Karl Popper, the role of individuals in history, the ideas of Plekhanov; African contributions to historical thought, Cheikh ante Diop, John Mbiti, Father Placide Tempels, Kwasi Wiredu, Odera Oruka, Ali Mazrui, Mudimbe; Post modernism and deconstruction; the future/end of history; the view of Francis Fukuyama.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lecture, Discussion, Question and Answer

Instructional Materials/Equipment

Whiteboard, Text Books, LCD Projectors, Hand-outs

Course Assessment

| Type | Weighting (%) |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Continuous Assessment | 30% |
| End of Semester Examination | 70% |
| Total | 100% |

Course Outline

1. Introduction

- Definition of Philosophy of History

- Definition of the term History
- What is the Concern of the historian?
- Necessity of History
- Justification for Philosophy of History

2. Causation in History

- The Principle of Causality
- Responsibility
- Regularity
- Determine
- Indeterminism
- Chance
- The Great Man Theory versus the Role of the Masses
- Free Will

3. Historical Fact and Truth

- The Concept of Historical Fact
- Interpretation of Historical Fact
- Theories of Truth in History

4. Interpretation of Historical Process

- Marxist-Leninist Interpretation of History
- Benedetto Croce and Contemporary History
- R. G Collingwood and the Theory of Re-enactment

- Arnold Toynbee and the Cyclical Theory of History

5. Historical Explanation

- Carl G. Hempel and the Function of General Laws in History
- Karl Popper's Critique
- William Dray and Explanation of "What" in History
- Similarities and Differences between Explanation in History, Social and Natural Science

6. Objectivity in History

- Definition of Objectivity
- Objectivity versus Subjectivity in History
- Hayden White and the Question of Historical Objectivity and Bias

7. Positivism and Neo-positivism

- Joseph Arnold Toynbee

8. African Philosophy of History

- Father Placide Tempels and Bantu Philosophy
- John S. Mbiti and Ontological Theory of African History
- Ali Mazrui and Africa's Triple Heritage
- African Proverbs as Philosophies of History

9. Post – structuralism, Deconstruction and Post Modernism

- Michael Foucault

