

1. Definition of the Concept of History. J Huizinga, Leiden

History is the intellectual form in which a civilisation renders account to itself of its past.

Intellectual form: science or art, ^{evidence} / ~~research~~ or fable, monograph or general history, research or composition

Civilisation: subject of the activity, object of the inquiry

"Every civilization and every sectional civilization must hold its own history to ~~that~~ be the true one, and is entitled to do so, provided it constructs this history in accordance with the critical requirements imposed by its conscience as a civilization, and not according to the cravings for power in the interests of which it imposes silence upon this conscience."

Hence "plurality of the forms of history."

"If sufficient self-knowledge... unhesitatingly assert the relative value of its own product."

Account: i.e. earnestness, ne quid falsi audeat

its past: world civilization, world past

All historical knowledge is limited by a capacity for assimilation which in its turn arises out of the study of history