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Global Conceptual History: A Reader

Classical Texts in Conceptual History

1. Reinhardt Koselleck,

"Introduction(Einleitung) to the Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe"

(1) the purpose of the Lexicon

*130 basic historical concepts

*the central problematic: the dissolution of the old society of orders or estates and the development of the modern world

*from about 1750 to the threshold of our own time/political and social concepts of German-speaking Europe

*Bedeutunggeschichten

*Sattelzeit: concepts registering this change became 'Janus-faced'

*democratization, temporalization, Ideologiesierbarkeit, politicization

*contribution of the lexicon: information/the process of transformation into modernity/semantic control of the use of language today

(2) method

* historical-critical

*retranslation: diachronic analysis/historical change and historical persistence/synchronic analysis

- * history of social structure vs structural linguistics
- * distinction between word and concept

*convergence of concept and history

(3) sources

*writings of representative authors

* a wide range of source materials from everyday life

*consultation of the major dictionaries, encyclopedia and lexica

- *extensive citation
- (4) organization and division

13 Forty years of Conceptual History-The State of Art Wilibald Steinmetz

1. New fields of research: from conceptual history to historic semantics

*Ulrich Gumbrecht 'ossification of the once lively study of conceptual history'

*'History of Political and Social Concepts Group'

*Finland/Brazil/South Korea

*German-speaking world: new periods & new method

2. An open question: possible explanations for semantic change

old conceptual history studies/recent discourse historical research / semantic change

3. Conceptual history at a transnational level: translation processes and the problem of the translatability of concepts

*the problem of equivalence at the synchronic level

*the problem of equivalence at the diachronic level

*the problem of Eurocentrism