

History-Writing as Critique

by Joan W. Scott (p.g. 19-37 of book)

“post culturalism”- label formed by American academics to denote the heterogenous works of a series of mid-20th- century French & continental philosophers // theorists fr. google

- discredit critique (so to try and question information provided) in politics is considered being disloyal even if it aims to hide the reality of formal people’s lives

21	Argument: postculturalist history is not only possible, but necessary Past written works proves evidence of patriarchy, male domination
22	Willful moral blindness should discredit works from being accounts of true history
23	“Critique”- precise & systematic meaning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique makes known what are the questionable faults in an argument • Done so to promote change
24	Critique used in analyzing the social & political contexts unbiasedly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique—> b/c not all things are a prior true, or true, just be knowing//sensory experience • Critique opens up idea of the future (not as Kant said, “is not to extend knowledge, but only to correct it.” (25)
26	Critique= “deconstruct”- locate blindspots, limitations
27	Michel Foucault -recognize self in what you are researching the “construction of meaning” How we write history, not by quoting (previous writers, but interpreting & having unbiased analysis) “What counted as history was a series of discontinuous interpretive shifts.”
28	Foucault focused on power distracting us on how real institutions functioned at the time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott disagrees as it can be used to invoke other questions on knowledge

29	<p>Human subject as denial of agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott says it explains how agency is established • “the attribution of identity made homosexuals objects of science and subject of law, and so provided the grounds for collective identification and eventually, political action.”
30	<p>Ethnocentrism= racism on a gender// ethnic base</p>
32	<p>“The ‘Passion’ that modernity worries about can neither be predicted nor contained.” (30)-Albert Horseman’s The Passions and the Interests</p>
33 (The Ethics of Critique)	<p>Driven by the power for change—> make things better -legitimizing authority</p>
34	<p>Critique “confirms” our own sense of moral superiority & sense of who we are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what are the sources of our values ? • how have they come to be ?
35	<p>“it opens doors to futures we might not otherwise have been able to imagine and, in so doing, gives us ever more material for the writing of history</p>