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The Nature of Historism. The Main Concepts and Theses of Ernst Troeltsch's Interpretation

Abstract

The article aims to present the main elements of Ernst Troeltsch's conception of historism. Historism is understood here as a way of thinking (in science or worldview), which is directed to explain things as products of a historical process. In this view, there is no place for any absolute or universal solutions, causes and rules (thus historism is something completely different from historicism in K. R. Popper's sense). In the first step, the author tries to show the philosophical context of Troeltsch's thought (Hegel, Dilthey, Neo-Kantianism, Fenomenology) and to present some of the most important ideas connected with historism (like irrationalism, subjectivism, relativism and individuality). The main part of the article discusses Troeltsch's conception according to the first chapter of his *Historismus und seine Probleme*. This part presents Troeltsch's opinion about the crisis of historism and his vision of the real philosophy of history, which should be based on a formal logic of history.

Keywords: historism, Ernst Troeltsch, philosophy of history.