

# Chapter 3


## AI and Historical Narratives: Reconstructing the Past Through Philosophy

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming historical studies by introducing innovative methodologies enriched with philosophical insights. Historical narratives, inherently interpretative, are shaped by concepts of causality, morality, and volition. This chapter explores how AI acts as a conceptual tool, blending moral philosophy, existentialism, and socio-political theory into narrative creation. By augmenting historical facts with philosophical frameworks, AI enables speculative reconstructions that address ethical dilemmas, existential questions, and socio-political issues. These AI-driven narratives challenge traditional historiographical boundaries while raising concerns about the distortion of facts and the distinction between history and philosophical invention. Using global examples, the chapter demonstrates how AI broadens access to history while addressing methodological intersectionality. It advocates for the responsible application of AI in history and philosophy to extend historical knowledge and tackle modern challenges, redefining how we engage with the past.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The emergence of AI has created a new wave in many fields such as history, philosophy to rewrite history in a number of ways through new methodologies. AI's capacity for assimilating massive data sets, for identifying features or themes, and for creating novel materials has broadened its scope from computational problems and made it a tool that can address fundamental humanistic concerns — concerns arguably best expressed as questions. When applied to the field of history, AI offers a possibility of redefining history both in the philosophical and empirical sense by questioning traditional historical writing and thereby offering new ways of exploring the ethical, existential, and socio-political aspects of history. History is a set of narratives that are not just reports of what happened but constructs based on presence of philosophical investigations and reflections on concepts of cause, justice, and actors. Historians such as Leopold von Ranke stressed on narration of facts where they really were “writing history as it is” (Ranke, 1981). However, more contemporary voices, for instance, Hayden White has maintained that historical writing is inherently relativistic in that it is always and already situated within the frameworks of meaning, language, and culture (White, 1973). Other schools of thought such as Hegelian and Marxian historicism also support the assessments indicating that the histories propagated are in adherence to the subjective and moral outlooks of the cultures they stem from (Hegel, 2017).

AI's ability to process large amounts of data and generate speculative stories offers new options for incorporating philosophical paradigms into historical writing. The use of ethical dilemmas, existential queries, and socio-political concepts within AI-generated histories allows one to present histories that open up the spectator to critical reflection on aspects of the human' *Lebenswelt*. For instance, AI written narratives could retell significant events in human history such as the end of slavery in every country, the French Revolution or even modern events like Brexit or Trump's presidency in the frameworks of utilitarianism, existentialism, post-colonialism, patriarchal oppression or any other school of thought and present new opportunities for philosophical reflections on human history.

### Philosophical Foundations of Historical Narratives

Historical discourses that are actually presented as the plots in Historical novels are not linear chronicles at all: they are philosophical schools of thoughts superimposed on historical plots. They do thus demonstrate the manner in which the human mind finds pattern, cause, blame and purpose where there is, in fact, none, thus fitting neatly into the tradition characteristic of many earlier disciplines. Obviously the historian and the philosophers who tried to make sense out of history over the

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