

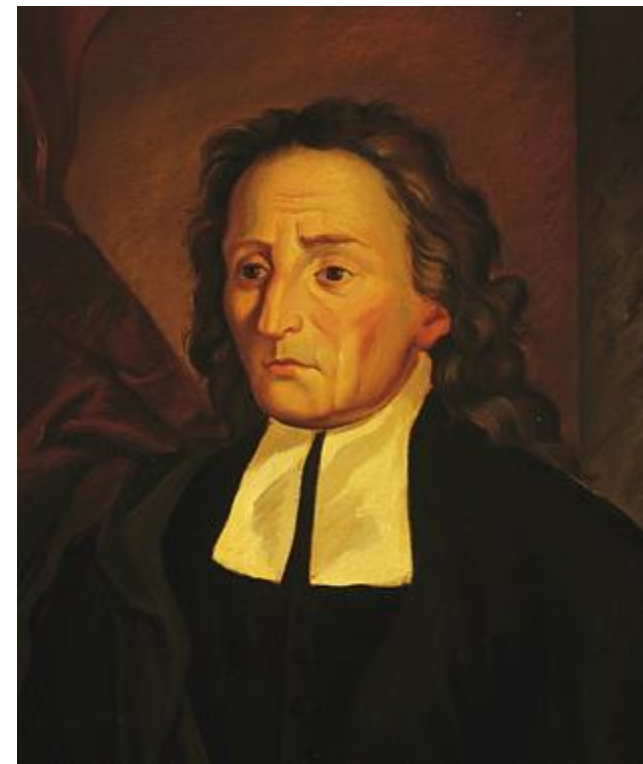
GIAMBATTISTA VICO

Biography

- Born 1668 in Italy
- Born to a bookseller dad
- Age 7, had severe skull fracture
- Survived typhus in 1686. Ill-health throughout his life.
- Appointed historian for King Charles III
- Died 1744 in Italy

The Ideal Eternal History of Giambattista Vico

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8swo4fvHU4Y> (show 1:50- 10:41)



Philosophy (major ideas)

Historically, society evolves in cycles from one governed by imagination, superstition, and custom to one governed by rational understanding and that, in turn, declines into a society governed by imagination; in a parallel fashion, the political nature of society evolves from anarchy to oligarchy and then to democracy and monarchy, and finally declines to anarchy

There is no fixed human nature that remains identical regardless of time, place or circumstances; human nature develops in accordance with self-knowledge and with insight into the essence of things.

Humans will act for the sake of their own particular ends, but the socialized nature of those ends will bring about unforeseen changes in society itself

Created the “verum-factum principle”, which holds that one can know the truth in what one makes

Vico explains the three principles of history: religion, marriage and burial. These are principles both in the sense that they are the first things in society and in that they lie at the core of social existence