

## Historical Writing of the Greeks from Representation to Realism

### الكتابة التاريخية عند الإغريق من التمثل إلى الواقعية

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**Abstract:** This study deals with the path of historical writing for the Greeks that started from assimilation, which is that kind of mythical interpretation in a poetic artistic image of a fictional character of the major events of history that the Greek society passed through. This stage is represented by the poet "He Miro", while the term realism indicates the beginning of the systematic study The events are history with subjecting them to some criticism and insight. This stage is represented by the historian "Herodotus". The science of history for the Greeks knew two levels of writing, the first is a mythical representation that is dominated by the artistic character in the form of epic poetry and enthusiastic, and the second is the beginning of a scientific analysis based on the study of historical events systematically according to certain steps. The second level was exposed to scientific criticism at the level of historical analogy. On the part of contemporary European philosophy, and through these two levels, historical writing was formed in its first form for the Greeks and thus paved the way for building the scientific method in the study of historical accidents and phenomena.

**Keywords:** History; Myth; Awareness; Method; Criticism.

**ملخص:** هذه الدراسة مسار الكتابة التاريخية عند الإغريق التي انطلقت من التمثل وهو ذلك النوع من التفسير الأسطوري في صورة فنية شعرية ذات طابع خيالي لأحداث التاريخ الكبرى التي مرَّ بها المجتمع الإغريقي ويمثل هذه المرحلة الشاعر "هوميروس"، أما مصطلح الواقعية فيشير إلى بداية الدراسة المنهجية للأحداث التاريخ مع إخضاعها لشيء من النقد وإمعان النظر ويمثل هذه المرحلة المؤرخ "هيرودوت". إن علم التاريخ عند الإغريق عرف مستويين من الكتابة، الأول تمثلي أسطوري غلب عليه الطابع الفني في صورة الشعر الملحمي الحماسي، أما الثاني فهو بداية لتحليل علمي يعتمد على دراسة الأحداث التاريخية دراسة منهجية وفق خطوات معينة. لقد تعرض المستوى الثاني للنقد العلمي على مستوى الكتابة التاريخية من طرف الفلسفة الأوروبية المعاصرة وبواسطة هذين المستويين تشكلت الكتابة التاريخية في صورتها الأولى عند الإغريق ومهدت بالتالي إلى بناء المنهج العلمي في دراسة الحوادث والظواهر التاريخية

كلمات مفتاحية: التاريخ؛ الأسطورة؛ الوعي؛ المنهج؛ النقد.

### Introduction:

History considers the receptacle of human memory with all its material and intangible actions. It is concerned with studying the reality of the human being, an active and influential being who possesses the past that occurred and occurred at a certain moment in time. History reveals to us the basic lines of all ideas and actions of a person who lives in a certain society and belongs to a certain civilization. In this sense, he says Ibn Khaldun: "History is part of the human society which is the urbanization of the world and what is presented by nature of conditions such as savagery, homosexuality, tribalism and varieties of fluctuations of human beings to each other and what arises from that of the king and states and their ranks and what people impersonate with their actions and endeavors of earnings, pensions, sciences, industries and all that By its nature, this urbanization occurs through conditions "[Ibn Khaldun, A, 1956, 57].

This opinion applies greatly to the Greek society, which formed a saturated cognitive system based on the ideas of the philosophy of nature, which was mixed with the ideas of myth and various religions. The Greeks did not know a single religious belief so there was no organized body of clergy in ancient Greece working to spread fixed and obligatory beliefs, Religion itself was mixed and mixed with myths and occultation's of all kinds. "[Abd al-Mu'ti, M., 1994, 194] The absence of religious authority that establishes the building of belief in the Greeks made their philosophers raise the status of reason by contemplating and contemplating the emergence of the universe, the origin of man and his fate after death, and then The philosophical problem of the early philosophers prior to Socrates was related to the study of existence, as myths were no longer valid for the stage of maturity and there was no priestly authority to restrict thought "[Sobhi, A., 1999, 37].

The absence of this type of authority prompted Greek thinkers to apply the consideration of research into the process of the ethical, social and historical life of their society. At the level of historical writing, the Greek thought produced a group of historical writings, perhaps the most famous of which is the book "Works and Days" by the historian "Hesiod", who explained the course of the development of history on the level of historical writing. The basis of a group of cycles where the first cycle we find in it is the golden age of the development of the path and in it the human mind realizes absolute extreme happiness and then lives the second cycle that represents the silver age and in it is represented by a picture of the beginning of the formation of pains and tragedies and then realizes the third cycle in which he lives the time of pests and wars and the resulting dissolution Moral, the human mind enters into the fourth cycle, which is the Iron Age, which is the era of corruption and

the spread of bribery, and at this stage the general historical cycle ends, and a new cycle begins. "[Sobhi, A, 1999, 37] This is the general path of the development of history for Hesiod. This matter makes us consider This type of analysis is a form of historical writing that established the birth of history science for the Greeks.

Analysis:

History made many strides in light of the metaphysical, mythological and superstitious interpretation before discovering its correct approach towards the scientific understanding of the historical events and phenomena that shaped the past of man and determined his fate. Throughout its long history, the human mind has been concerned with the issue of human history itself linked to human societies, where humanity tried thanks to its awareness and growth Realizing that he must strive to know his existence in its various dimensions and to find out the truth of its historical process and the laws governing it, Hegel felt the importance of history and the need to rationalize it. Marx also considered that the true science that he knows is the science of history that introduces us to the laws that govern society and human history that It brings together the history of different civilizations in different peoples and times.

History has known several attempts through which he tried to elevate the interpretation to the level of reason, as he tried to bypass mythological concepts, especially with the Greeks, and specifically with "Herodotus". In the view of some historians, no one before him in the Greek society was able to free history from the control of the interpretation of the metaphysical forces that were the Greek society It is believed that it controlled the course of history. Was Greek thought able to establish a theory of history that paves the way for building a science concerned with the study of historical events? And within the Greek system of thought, was "Heroin" actually able to establish a theory to build a science of history? What are the steps and stages that historical Greek thought went through in order to establish and develop a methodology that explains the process of historical events?

#### **1- Forms of historical knowledge for the Greeks:**

The building and formation of historical knowledge for the Greeks were influenced by a group of factors and circumstances of a political, intellectual and social character. These circumstances reduced the building of historical knowledge between two basic stages: the stage of the birth of the Greek historical awareness and the stage of the development of historical awareness.

**First: The stage of the birth of historical awareness:**

This stage begins from the 12th century BC and extends to the 6th century BC. The best image of this awareness appears in the epics of the Iliad and the Odyssey, and the Iliad dates back to the 9th century BC, and the Odyssey dates back to the late 8th century BC, and they are two long poems. Attributed to "Homer", and the Iliad is distinguished for telling stories and novels of wars. The Odyssey is a narrative that narrates images of peace and is full of fictional stories and the two poems without them is "Homer" during his return to Greece after the end of the Trojan wars, that Greek poet who portrayed the heroics and glories of the Greeks in a poetic form. It has a historical dimension as the two epics contained historical material that some considered a source for the history of an era about which there is no information. "[Mirghani, H, 2011, 22] He " He Miros "enjoyed a great historical awareness while he wrote the two epics, which he then transferred from the oral narration. The historical narrative on the Iliad is that it tells about the war between the Greeks and Troy, and despite the mythical reference on which the epic relied, it "preserves in its folds many news and balanced historical traditions" [Bayoumi, M., dt, 104].

It should be noted that the authorship of the two epics was completed thanks to several poets, "He Miros," the last of whom was called the teacher of Greece in the era of myth.

From the historical point of view, the two epics can be considered as the first nucleus from which the science of history arose in the Greeks, and they are also the real moment for the emergence of historical thought. However, we cannot include them within objective scientific historical books because they lacked scientific evidence and proofs on which to build and shape the historical phenomenon, in addition to Until "He Miros" was a poet and was not a hindrance, but his situation of the two epics in this enthusiastic way made the Greek individual know his history and his past, but in a poetic form where when we read the works of "Hu Miros" poetry, which are derived from the history of the ancient Greeks, we feel the poetic artistic side. More than the aspect of honesty in dealing with events because the pure nature of poetry requires that. He Miros tried to draw inspiration from the heroic Greek history in a purely poetic form that made the Greek person artistically recognize his ancient history. He succeeded Miros in making historical events. The past is alive in the minds of his contemporaries with his poetic genius and his extraordinary ability to connect the past with the present and glorify the ancestors of previous heroes "[Al-Nashar, M., 1998, 34]. Nevertheless, the poems that chronicle the past of peoples cannot be precise.

We can enumerate a set of characteristics of historical knowledge at this stage in the following points:

A- Historical knowledge has been associated: with myth and imagination, as it carried many facts and events that the Greeks lived through from the Iliad and Odyssey, but in many cases we mixed with myth and myth as they represented people in a supernatural form, and from this angle we can say that history originated in the embrace of mythological representations and began Gradually, he tries to be independent by himself and to search for new approaches that make him a stand-alone science.

B- Narration of narratives without criticism: Greek memory preserved the exploits of Greece through oral narration from generation to generation without questioning its authenticity or considering the narrator's conditions, which led to the tyranny of the mythical character over historical works.

C- Man is the engine of history: that the notice of the Iliad and the Odyssey made the Greek man possess divine attributes, as the Greeks made man a stage of history and creates it at the same time. It is a philosophical vision of history despite the Greeks 'lack of knowledge of the subject of the philosophy of history, these were some of the characteristics that characterized the stage of the birth of thought for the Greeks, it is an integral part of the development of the science of history, as the two epics included reference to the meaning of history, its goals and objectives, although they lacked the historical method with its rules and mechanisms.

Second - The stage of the growth of historical awareness among the Greeks: This stage was considered as a qualitative shift in the history of Greek thought, where philosophy appeared in its theoretical and practical form, and the interest of philosophers became "research into human problems" [Subhi, A., 1999, 39]. This prompted the Greek thought to find new research methods based on the creativity of concepts in various fields of knowledge. Perhaps history is one of the oldest areas of knowledge that the Greeks were interested in. In the fifth century BC, Herodotus traveled between the different regions of the countries of Greece, where he "compared the tribes and peoples Many have varying degrees of social and political organization, from primitive tribes to the advanced empires in the East, so that we can regard him as an anthropologist as he was the father of history "[Qansawa, p., 2007, 30]. Some European historical studies indicate that Cicero was the first to consider that "Herodotus" is the father of history. He used to present a comprehensive and general presentation of historical events in public squares in the city of "Athena" so that the image of those events would not disappear from people's minds and remain embedded in their perceptions. It

is a systematic method. A pedagogy to teach the lessons of history. Herodotus "deserved the title of Father of History for his effort in examining the news with the mind alone" [Al-Nashar, A.S., 1979, 393]. However, his book "Historia" included some Greek and Eastern folk myths and legends. "[Sarton, J. 1959, 158]. Herodotus used artistic poetic imagination to depict characters such as the kings of Persia and Sparta, and his writing style was distinguished by the construction style. And he tried, through his historical analysis, to the causes of the conflict between Greece and Persia, despite his use of the artistic method, and in his aforementioned book he described the countries of Greece, Egypt and Persia, as well as the history of the wars that took place between the Persians and Greece from the time of King "Lydia Croesus" until the time of the king "Fracture Kisses". xerxes "is the period of the end of the wars against Persia.

Many students of the science of history stand on two basic issues. The first is that "the real beginning of writing history did not start in the country of Greece" [Hartog, F, 2001, 12].

Whereas, the Kingdom of Akkad was considered the first to block the country under its authority and began to write its history, which was a royal history, so King Akkad was the one who wrote the history of his kingdom. "[Hartog, f, 2001, 12] and the second is that the Greeks were too late to enter The arena of history, in comparison with the ancient peoples in the eastern civilizations that entered early in the making and setting of their history, despite the primacy of the ancient peoples in writing history, but the Greeks, thanks to "Herodotus", created the term historian that chronicles events from the ego, but they did not put the science of history in the full systematic sense. And with "Herodotus", it was presented for the first time in "the history of historical writing, a fundamental problem, which is whether history is a science or an art" [Hartog, f, 2001, 16]. Because he employed the term history in his writings from two basic angles, the first is scientific and the second is artistic, and this situation was opposite to the historian. "Tuxedad", who did not use this term until later, as he imposed the term itself and its existence on studies and writings of a historical nature.

Herodotus' writings charted the features and early beginnings of a composition in a specific type of event that relates to the living of people in society through the succession of times in the past. "[Al-Nashar, M., and DT, 74]. We can enumerate the most important features that characterize his historical method. In the following points:

1- History is a science with goals and objectives. Herodotus removed the naive view that considered history as a mere memory of novels and stories.

And news where he made history goals represented in preserving the memory of the past and recording human achievements. He was also interested in the history of wars and analyzing their causes and the factors that led to them.

2- Looking and looking at the historical accounts: Herodotus used to travel and travel in order to collect relics and information and verify the authenticity of the narratives.

3 - Linking history to geography: Herodotus is considered the first to link history as a human act with physical geography by linking each historical event to its geographical framework.

4- The influence of historical writing by positivism: "Herodotus" was influenced by the natural tendency in Greek philosophy, as he tried to approach a critical approach towards historical narratives by subjecting myths to criticism and examination, and as such, he approached the door of scientific objectivity in the analysis of historical facts.

5- Distancing himself from subjectivity: Herodotus enjoyed a mental maturity that made him adopt a neutral approach towards his handling of historical incidents, so he moved away from the intolerance of his Greek race and committed to the objectivity that made him constantly emphasize the banking and Persian origins of Greek philosophy and religious beliefs. ].

This objectivity that characterized the historical writings of "Herodotus" made modern and contemporary philosophers much interested in analyzing and studying these writings.

6- Searching for the causes of historical accidents: Herodotus spent his historical journey while he was on a continuous travels aiming to reveal not only the historical path, but beyond it to researching the circumstances and causes of their occurrence. From history, where he placed intellectual, religious and cultural life in a historical picture expressing the spirit of the age to which it belongs.

The historical "Herodotus" considered a true moment for the birth of a science with a method, purpose and goals, and therefore we must emphasize that history "was established in Greece more than a century before Aristotle by" Herodotus ", who had established the first base for the science of history that precipitated the emergence of Historians drew from his methodology and drew from his principles.

Although a group of researchers unanimously agreed on the importance of the characteristics that distinguish the historical method of "Herodotus", there are some historians who have taken the position of the scientific critic of his method of historical writing. In this field, Dr. Fehling, "that history is a perception and representation, and this result he reached when he conducted a historical

study through which, after examination and scientific historical research, he estimated that the sources of historical" Herodotus "are nothing but imaginary sources that he employed in order to develop a method related and related to possible approaches with the rest of the other sources that He refers to it in a study, and according to Fehling, this method does not lead to the development of a science of history, and it is nothing but techniques for literary writing, or rather it is a manifestation of history in a comprehensive fictional form [Fhling & Keinst, 1971, 461].

Herodotus was very interested in writing the history of the neighboring peoples of the Greeks. However, according to some historians, this writing was distinguished by the characteristic: "lack of critical spirit and sometimes naivety in writing, in addition to the lack of accuracy in summarizing information and in historical accounts" [Hartog, f, 2001, 57].

"Herodotus" dealt at length and in a detailed way in describing the war that Darius \* (one of the leaders of the ancient Greek wars) led against the peoples neighboring the Greeks. or not? [Hartog, f, 2001, 61].

"Herodotus" belongs to that type of historians who write history while they live the events directly, that is, he watches these events and hears them from others, then transmits them to us. This type of history is called the name of the original history, where the historian is satisfied with mentioning partial facts and concrete events and about this idea Aristotle says that "poetry is closer to philosophy because it depicts universal truths, and for this reason it is higher than the world of history that mentions partial facts" [Aristotle, t, 33]. And we can conclude from this Aristotle opinion a kind of scientific criticism directed at Herodotus' theory of history. We can add in this regard another criticism of the philosopher "Polyp" 218 BC-168 BC, who developed a historical approach in which it differed from his predecessors the Greeks, as he considered that their works were nothing but literary artifacts that depicted historical events in an imaginary artistic form. The method of "Polbe" is based on the construction of the political history of Greece based on the study of immediate events based on witnesses "[Polybe, 1970, 13].

In Polyp's view, relying on witnesses aims to be objective in describing and analyzing events.

Another criticism of the historical writings of Herodotus is that the writing of the history of Greece was based on his own vision based on himself, and as a historian who rarely possesses a conscious degree of integrity, as he often placed himself as a party to history and not a witness to it. Contemporary critical studies of the historical method for the Greeks in general and Herodotus in



particular came as a second reading of the basic problem of the birth of history science and its methodological mechanisms in ancient civilizations.

**Conclusion:**

The historical writing of the Greeks, whether on the level of assimilation or at the level of reality, was mixed with a large class of philosophical ideas, as the transition from the stage of mythological writing of history to the stage of positivist writing was through the various wars in which the Greeks were a party and trying to link it to major historical events that formed a new path. For the Greeks of history through their openness to the process of investigating news of nations and peoples from the angle of nature, geography, angle of existence as well as human issues, so the Greeks entered with the other in the relationship of influence and influence thanks to the process of historical writing, so the human in its various dimensions served as the link between the historical research of the Greeks and the historical studies Western contemporary in particular, in which all its different schools attempted to re-read the natural, method and method of historical writing for the Greeks.

What can also be deduced from this reading is the real existence of the importance and role of action and the theoretical tool for the historical action of the Greeks, which was associated with the concept of philosophical awareness, which in turn is considered one of the greatest contributions made by the Greeks to building human civilization by laying the first foundations for the birth of the sciences in general and the science of history in particular. Hence, Greek philosophy had developed the first principles that directed historical consciousness towards its correct scientific path. In addition to the essence of the philosophical act, we also find another factor that contributed to this construction, which is the emergence of the writing factor in this period on the pattern of writing history "[Al-Nashar, M., D.T., 78]. Which necessitated a historical background that could not appear in Greece until the sixth century. BC and this background is the emergence of prose writing and also the resurgence in the search for the origins of society "[Saadallah, BC, 1985, 287].

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