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Wolfgang Glatzer

History and Politics of Well- Being in Europe



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Who is not taking into account the past three thousand years remains in his thinking in the dark and lives from the hand into the mouth
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832)¹

Not to know what happened before the own birth means always to remain a child; what is the life of a human being, if it is not interwoven through history with ancient times?

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43 BCE)

¹This proverb from Goethe is well known as well in German as in English. A number of literates have tried to translate it from German into English with different results. Above I used my own translation. The German original text is “Wer nicht von 3000 Jahren weiß sich Rechenschaft zu geben, bleibt im Inneren unerfahren, mag von Tag zu Tag leben” (Source: Pohanka 2016, p. 5). The text of Cicero above expresses the same idea about recognizing the past in Latin language: “Nescire, quid antea quam natus sis acciderit, id est semper esse puerum; quid enim est aetas hominis, nisi memoria rerum veterum cum superiorum aetate contextitur?”

*Dedicated to the European future of my
grandchildren
Henry, Louis, Jaro, Anouk and Noëlle.*

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