

Thea analysis of representation of social history in the historical novel Based on George Lukacs

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For a long time, two epistemological areas of history and literature, both in traditional and modern forms, have bases, fields and common themes for research and study. If we ignore the traditional form of these two areas, in its modern form on the one hand, the historical novel as a literary genre and on the other hand, social history as a historical genre, although both have a different way and expression, they include common issues: social relationships, daily life of ordinary people, women, rural classes and peasants, folklore, music Etc. In other words, a historical novel by addressing such issues represents social history in itself. Great writers of the historical novel like Walter Scott, Roman Roland, Thomas Mann, Balzac, Leo Tolstoy, Alexander Pushkin and many more in their novels have addressed issues and focused on topics which are clearly the subject of social history. This is exactly where the historical novel can be called one of the most important links and common fields of history and literature.

But what most of all has made this literary form remarkable and outstanding in the history of world literature is its use by classical writers and novelists. For this reason, the historical novel and the history of its growth and development have been one of the favorite issues of the great literary critics. Among these, George Lukacs (Marxist philosopher, aesthetist, theorist and contemporary literary critic) had the largest contribution. Lukacs was born in ۱۸۵۵ and died in ۱۹۷۱. During his scientific and research career, Lukacs wrote enduring and influential books in the field of literary criticism such as *Studies in European Realism, Goethe and His Age,*

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The Historical Novel, Balzac et le réalisme français, The Meaning of Contemporary Realism, and Essays on Thomas Mann. All these works are one of the best examples of literary criticism in the 20th century. Lukács has paid special attention to the historical novel in these works and has analyzed and criticized the great historical novels, especially their historical social aspect.

Accordingly, in this study, based on the analysis of Lukács from the great historical novels, we try to answer the main question that in terms of Lukács, how social history is represented in historical novels. In other words what is the relation between social history and the historical novel? The main hypothesis of the research is that in terms of Lukács both history and historical novels were equally influenced by the atmosphere of suspicion towards to politics (History from above) in the mid-nineteenth century, and so they both turned to "history from the bottom": an area which later became the subject of social history. It is at this point that one can speak of the representation of social history in a historical novel. Indeed, the historical context of Lukács's analysis dates back to the middle of the nineteenth century, when there was a kind of suspicion towards politics (what happens in the upper classes of society) throughout Europe's history. This avoiding from politics led to the emergence of many new perspectives. One of these perspectives was the idea of history from the bottom. From-the-bottom approach to the history in the historical novel was also affected by this situation (suspicion towards everything that occurs in the "above"). So, in terms of Lukács both history and historical novels were equally influenced by the atmosphere of suspicion towards politics (History from above) in the mid-nineteenth century and so they both turned to history from the bottom.

In the other words, just as social history, in contrast to political history, which focuses primarily on the upper classes of the society and the heroes and great men of history, emphasizes the central role of the underclass, the anonymous and the lower of society, historical novels also focus on the low classes and ordinary people of history and society, rather than focusing on heroes, great men, and upper classes of society. This is where the historical novel, in fact, represents social history. Indeed, what is important in a historical novel is not the retelling of massive historical events, but the awakening of the literary remembrance of the anonymous people in which the events involved.

According to what was said, Lukács believes that the great mission of the historical novel is the literary invention of characters from the world of people that visualizes

the inner life of the people and the important trends of this life. He believes bourgeois historiography as the science of ruling classes consciously ignores the life and events of the masses of the people and often even distorts it. Historical novel has a major mission as a powerful weapon for defending human progress: The restoration of these real human propulsions (the faces of the life of the masses of the people) as they were in reality and empower them for the present. In terms of Lukács, this mission has been performed by classic historical novel, and the contemporary historical novel also has determined the mission for itself.

He emphasizes that historian novelist should focus on the lives of masses of people and middle and lower levels of society and select his/her characters from the same category. Lukacs believes historical novels show the variety and plurality of people's reactions to major events and the various stages of life's evolution. From this perspective, historical novels are prominent and important. He praises the classic historical novel because of this feature. For example, although Walter Scott showed the various forms of class struggle (reactionary monarchist uprisings, the Puritans campaign, the class struggle of the aristocracy against emerging Absolutism, etc.) But in addition, it always shows the multiplicity of reactions of masses of people to these campaigns. It is this multiplicity that gives the true and correct picture of the life of the masses in the critical periods of the development of humanity.

Key words: Social history, Historical Novels, George Lukacs, History from The Bottom, People.