

Some kind of a figure representing

THE PHILOSOPHIES OF HISTORY

Basically three philosophies of history are witnessed in such studies...although there are variations on all of these.

The first is known as the LINEAR approach and is associated with the church father, Augustine, and others. It suggests that history is a continuous progressive matter and is outlined or diagrammed simply by a straight line...from beginning to end. It looks like this:

Beginning _____ End

To Christians the guiding force is God. To Stoics it would be a benevolent fatalism, etc.

The second is designated the CYCLIC view in which history repeats itself along given cycles. The representation looks a little bit like this.

settlement
 interregnum
 revolution
 establishment
 social distress
 war
 aggrandizement

Well, the circle may be a bit whopper-jawed but that is the idea and it is associated historically with Spengler and in the modern age with Toynbee.

The third system is referred to as CONIC and is suggestive of a system in which history repeats itself like a line encircling and ascending a cone. The beginning is the founding of the world by God, the peak is when God draws all things to completion. The cycles repeat but on a reduced frequency basis as one approaches the peak of the cone. The view is associated in our day with Montgomery and others and is crudely drawn at the left.