

Zhelyazko Stoyanov

THE POSITIVIST IDEA OF HISTORY AS A SCIENCE

(Summary)

On the basis of the two fundamental antinomies in the philosophy of history, positivists insist on forming the naturalistic (scientific) methodology of history. In their opinion, the social sciences, including history, are built according to the pattern of natural science. They also talk about the manifestation of historical laws that the main task of the philosophy of history is to build a scientific theory about the historical process. Their successors – the neo-positivists – deny the manifestation of historical laws and consider the attempts to defend them as a typical “metaphysics”. The evolution of the positivist methodology of history shows its transition from the principles of naturalistic (scientific) historicism to the principles of naturalistic (scientific) anti-historicism.