

Acknowledgments

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History, Politics, and the Novel

It is not exactly a matter of free choice whether or not a cultural historian shall be a literary critic, nor is it open to him to let his virtuous political and social opinions do duty for percipience.

Lionel Trilling, *The Liberal Imagination*

This manner of portrayal is simply the artistic expression of that genuine historicism—the conception of history as the destiny of the people—which motivated the classics.

Georg Lukács, *The Historical Novel*

“Comment perdre son temps à des inepties pareilles?” disait Pécuchet.

“Mais par la suite, ce sera fort curieux, comme documents.”

“Va te promener avec tes documents! Je demande quelque chose qui m’exalte, qui m’enlève aux misères de ce monde!”

Gustave Flaubert, *Bouvard et Pécuchet*

If we write novels so, how shall we write history?

Henry James, “George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*”