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1 Archaeological and historical research (philological, etc.) can never depict the past by its methods. Besides, only when natural science advanced its demands for exactitude did they begin to endeavour to ascertain facts in history as well, which up to then was mere “chronicle”. But perhaps those who try to establish what really happens from day to day in (page 5) political life can learn to see how difficult it is to ascertain facts.

2 In its endeavour to keep and increase its power, the ruling class has always managed to falsify historical documents of all kinds past recognition. And inexhaustible imagination has buried everything under mountains of legends. Mankind’s desire to find contexts has nowhere been more ruinous to facticity than in history. Not until historians realize this will mankind be liberated from its historical illusions and fictions.

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