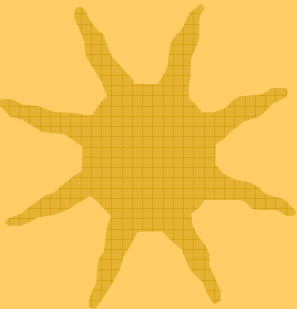
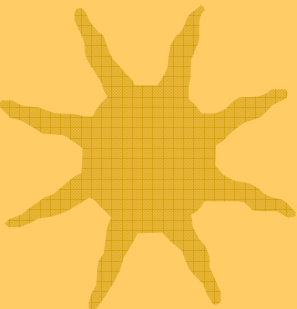
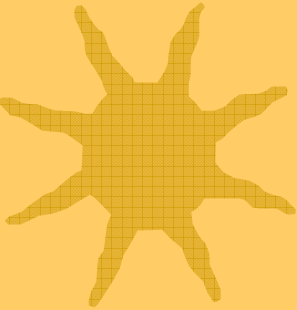




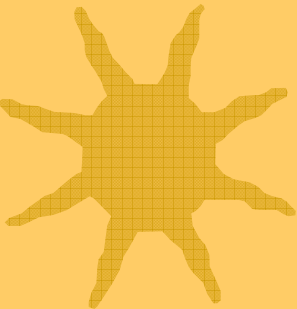
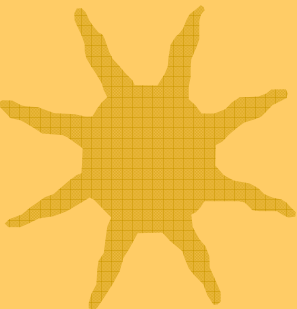
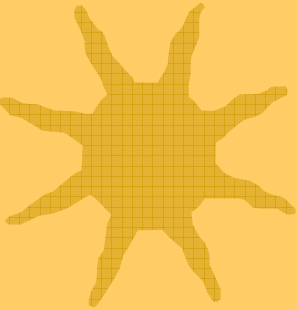
The Historian's Point of View



- ★ The human observer has to take his bearings from the point in Space and moment in Time at which he finds himself; and he is bound to be self-centered.
- ★ The historian's profession, is an attempt to correct a self-centeredness.
- ★ Our goal should be to keep the perfect equilibrium between self-assertion and self-renunciation. The middle path is as narrow as a razor's edge.



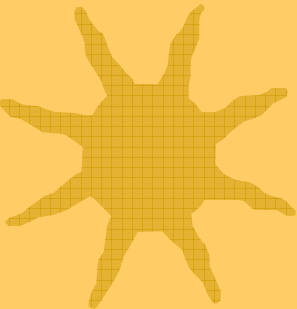
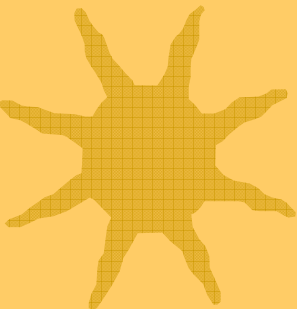
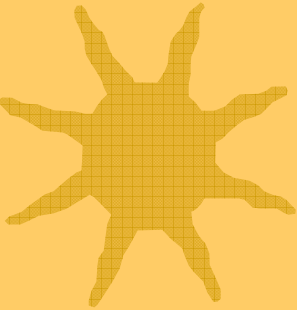
The Historian's Point of View



- ★ The historian's point of view is one of Mankind's more recent acquisitions. It presupposes the taking and keeping of records.
- ★ The impulse that moves an historian to study the records of the Past is a disinterested curiosity.
- ★ For, when once a human being has recognized that these other human beings had as much right as his own generation has, here and now, to behave as if they were the center of the Universe, he must also recognize that his own generation has as little right as these other generations had to maintain this self-centered attitude.



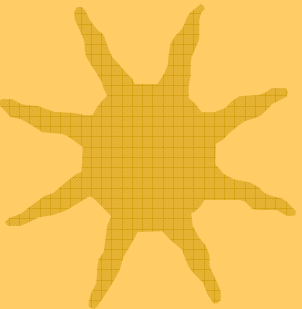
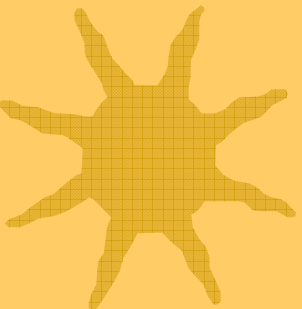
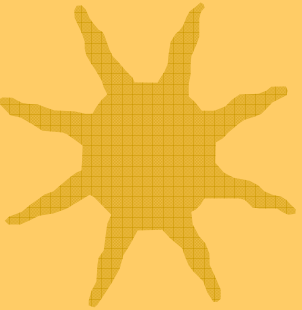
The Historian's Point of View



- ★ The Modern Western philosopher Croce has said that all history is contemporary history and that no history can be anything but this. His meaning is that even a comparatively sophisticated modern Man is still, the prisoner of his own time and place.
- ★ Each successive generation sees this identical episode of past history in a new perspective imposed by the transit of this generation's historical position from the position of its predecessors.



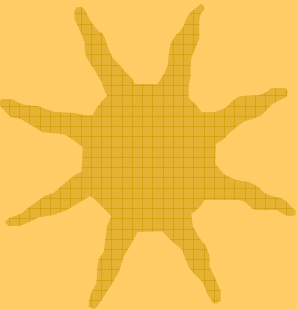
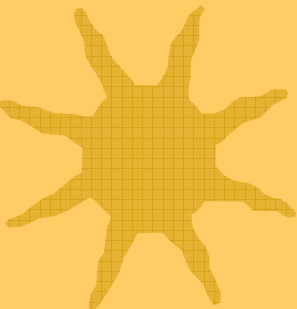
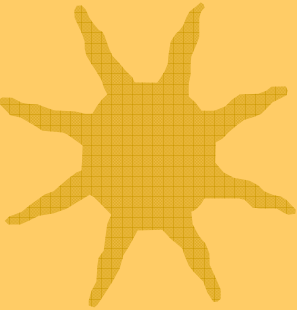
Two alternative views



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- ★ One of these two views sees the rhythm of the Universe as a cyclic movement governed by an impersonal Law.
 - ★ The true difference is that one relates what has happened, the other what may happen. Poetry, therefore, is a more philosophical and a higher thing than History; for Poetry tends to express the universal, History the particular.
 - ★ The other fundamental view sees the rhythm of the Universe as a non-recurrent movement governed by Intellect and Will.



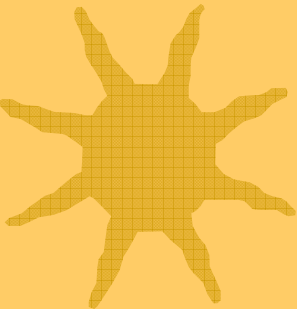
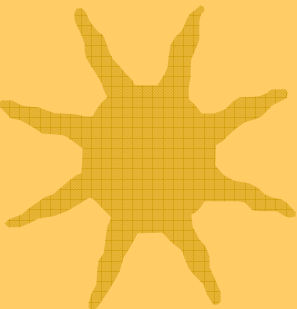
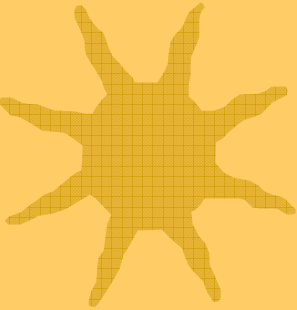
Sociological Approaches



- ★ Sociological approaches are distinguished by their focus on the interaction between religion and society.
- ★ According to Auguste Comte (d. 1857), the founder of sociology, in pre-modern societies theological conceptions of divine being, had provided the basis of the understanding of social hierarchy and moral order.
- ★ In modern societies sociology would replace theology as the source of the guiding principles and values of human social life.



Sociological Approaches

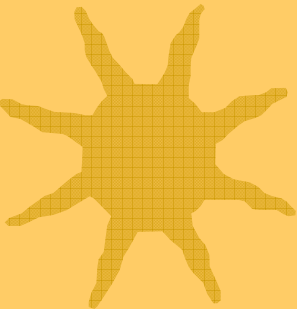
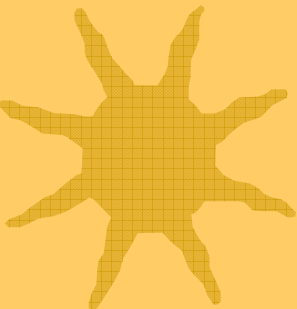
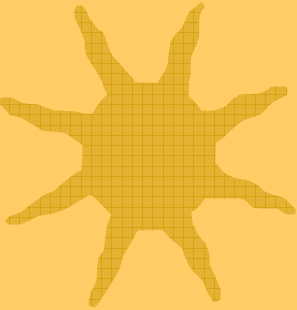


- ★ Emile Durkheim also offered an evolutionary account of human societies from tribal to republican, and from magical to rational.
- ★ Religion unites the members of a society around a common symbolic account of their place in the cosmos, their history and purpose in the order of things.
- ★ It also sacralizes the power of governing relations within the tribe. Religion is therefore a source of social and moral order, binding the members of society to a common social project, a set of shared values and social goals.



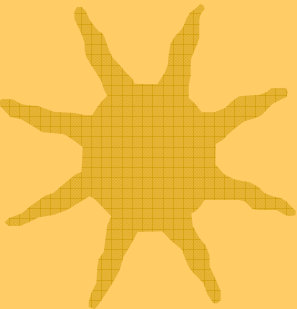
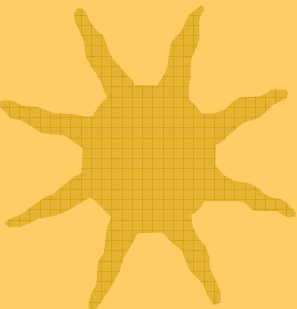
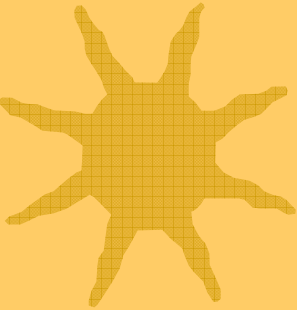
Sociological Approaches

- ★ Durkheim speculated that modern societies would need to develop new rituals and symbol systems with which to generate a sense of solidarity in the new project of republicanism.
- ★ He predicted that modern societies would suffer from much higher crime levels and suicide rates than tribal societies as a consequence of these anomic tendencies.





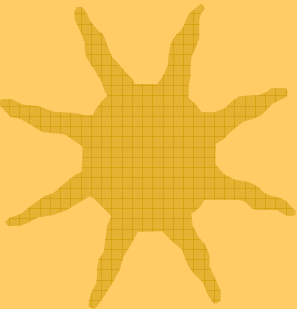
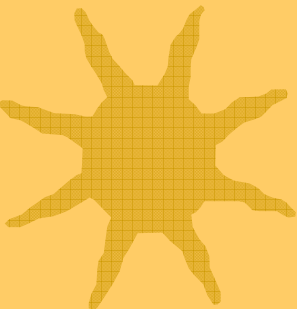
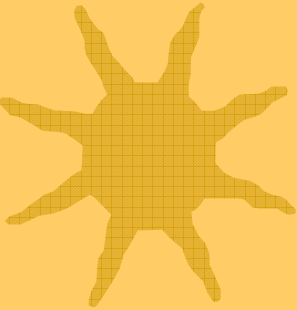
Sociological Approaches



- ★ Karl Marx (d. 1883) also regarded religion as a social product.
- ★ He posited that its primary function in generating order was not the benign one of creating commitment to a common social project but rather the malign one of legitimating the unjust and harsh rule of feudal lords over peasants, or of capitalists over workers.
- ★ Religion also acts as an opiate, drugging the masses in their oppression, promising them rewards in the hereafter.



Sociological Approaches



- ★ Max Weber (d. 1920) contended that religion was a source of ideas and practices which transcends the immanent social world, and is therefore capable of acting upon the social world.
- ★ In *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Weber was proposing an interactive and productive relationship between religious constructions of heavenly reward and the early modern turn to work, economic activity and everyday life.