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Paul Ricœur and the Possibility of a Just Memory. 'Difficult Heritage' in Berlin

Abstract

This article deals with the possibility of a just memory and relates it to the narrative work of memorial sites and public space in Berlin as well as to the cultural-political strategies after the fall of the Wall. The strategies applied bear witness to the different conceptions of the work of remembering history and its acts of violence. In order to uncover the philosophical implications of such commemoration, a preliminary insight into Paul Ricœur's late works is necessary, as they ascribe a new distancing function to historical research. Such an experience of historical distance plays a key role in coming to terms with the past and the possibility of reconciliation—a difficult heritage, as examined by Sharon Macdonald and Andreas Huyssen.

Keywords

Berlin, Forgiveness, Heritage, History, Holocaust, Identity, Memory, Reconciliation Remembering, Violence