

THE NEO-CONSERVATIVE SCHOOL IN
AMERICAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

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Abstract

In this article, the author analyses the background of the rise and the characteristics of the interpretation of the Neo-conservative historiography which had dominated the historical study of the United States during the 1950's. This school in American history of historical writing, he argues, was the product of the general conservative climate of opinion which began to prevail in the United States in the post-World-War-II years and of the reaction among historians against the Progressive historiography of the previous generation. In theory, the Neo-conservative or consensus historians rejected historical relativism in favor of the methodology as advocated by the scientific historians. In practice, instead of conflicts and revolutionary changes, they found in American past harmony and continuity of the basic values and opinions in American society. This is the reason why they have been called Neo-conservative or consensus historians.