The Legacy of Vico in Modern Cultural History

In this highly original study Joseph Mali explores how four attentive and inventive readers of Giambattista Vico’s *New Science* (1744) – the French historian Jules Michelet (1798–1874), the Irish writer James Joyce (1882–1941), the German literary scholar Erich Auerbach (1892–1957), and the English philosopher Isaiah Berlin (1909–1997) – came to find in Vico’s work the inspiration for their own modern theories (or, in the case of Joyce, stories) of human life and history. Mali’s reconstruction of the specific biographical and historical occasions in which these influential men of letters encountered Vico reveals how their initial impressions and interpretations of his theory of history were decisive both for their intellectual development and for their major achievements in literature and thought. This new interpretation of the legacy of Vico’s *New Science* is essential reading for all those engaged in the history of ideas and modern cultural history.

THE LEGACY OF VICO
IN MODERN CULTURAL HISTORY

From Jules Michelet to Isaiah Berlin

JOSEPH MALI
For Anya
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Abbreviations

References to the following publications appear throughout the book as abbreviations followed by page number, unless otherwise specified.

Giambattista Vico:

Jules Michelet:

James Joyce:
FW  James Joyce, Finnegans Wake (London: Faber and Faber, 1975). References appear as (standard) page number plus line number.

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**List of abbreviations**

**Erich Auerbach**:

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<td>NW</td>
<td>Giambattista Vico, <em>Die Neue Wissenschaft über die gemeinschaftliche Natur der Völker</em>, trans. and intr. by Erich Auerbach (Munich: Allgemeine Verlagsanstalt, 1924).</td>
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**Isaiah Berlin**:

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