

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.

JOSEPH MALI teaches European intellectual history in the Department of History at Tel Aviv University. His publications include *The Rehabilitation of Myth: Vico's New Science* (1992) and *Mythistory: The Making of a Modern Historiography* (2003).

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IN MODERN CULTURAL
HISTORY

From Jules Michelet to Isaiah Berlin

JOSEPH MALI



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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 It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107025875

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First published 2012
 First paperback edition 2018

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data
 Mali, Joseph.

The legacy of Vico in modern cultural history : from Jules Michelet to Isaiah Berlin / Joseph Mali.
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references (p.) and index.
 ISBN 978-1-107-02587-5 (hardback)

1. Vico, Giambattista, 1668–1744—Influence. I. Title.
 B3583.M25 2012
 195—dc23
 2012015441

ISBN 978-1-107-02587-5 Hardback
 ISBN 978-1-107-67083-9 Paperback

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For Anya

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Acknowledgements

During the years I have worked on this book I have enjoyed, and benefited from, conversations with Steven Aschheim, Jeffrey Barash, Avner Ben Amos, Lionel Gossman, Michael Heyd, the late John Michael Krois, Avi Lifshitz, Mark Lilla, Paul Mendes-Flohr, Ashraf Noor, Jonathan Price, Ariel Rathaus, Dorit Tanay, Donald Verene, Shulamit Volkov, Daniel Weidner, and the late Robert Wokler. My colleagues and students in the Department of History at Tel Aviv University have likewise widened my intellectual horizons. I thank them all.

I am very grateful to Richard Fisher, my editor at Cambridge University Press, for his firm judgement and encouragement throughout the process of evaluation; and to his assistant, Lucy Rhymer, for her helpful suggestions and cooperation in procuring the image for the cover. Special thanks to Jamie Hood for his meticulous attention to all aspects of production. I was fortunate to enjoy the expertise of Wendy Toole, whose editorial skills were greatly appreciated.

Portions of this book have appeared in different form in the following articles: 'Berlin, Vico, and the Principles of Humanity', in *Isaiab Berlin's Counter-Enlightenment*, ed. J. Mali and R. Wokler (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 2003), 51–71; 'Reading Michelet Reading Vico: Introduction to Michelet's *Discourse on the System and the Life of Vico*', in *New Vico Studies* 26 (2008), 1–19; I am grateful to the respective publishers for permission to reprint passages from these publications.

The research for this book was supported by the Israel Science Foundation.

Abbreviations

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

Giambattista Vico:

- A *The Autobiography of Giambattista Vico*, trans. Thomas G. Bergin and Max H. Fisch (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1963).
- NS *The New Science of Giambattista Vico*, trans. Thomas G. Bergin and Max H. Fisch (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1968). References appear as standard paragraph number.

Jules Michelet:

- D Jules Michelet, 'A Discourse on the System and Life of Vico', trans. Ashraf Noor, *New Vico Studies* 26 (2008).
- HF Jules Michelet, *History of France*, trans. G. H. Smith, 2 vols. (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1848).
- HR Jules Michelet, *History of the Roman Republic*, trans. W. Hazlitt (New York: C. M. Saxton, 1859).
- PHF Jules Michelet, 'Preface to the 1869 edition of the *History of France*', trans. Edward K. Kaplan in his *Michelet's Poetic Vision: A Romantic Philosophy of Nature, Man, & Society* (Amherst, NY: University of Massachusetts Press, 1977).

James Joyce:

- FW James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake* (London: Faber and Faber, 1975). References appear as (standard) page number plus line number.
- U James Joyce, *Ulysses*, ed. Hans Walter Gabler (London: The Bodley Head, 1986). References appear as episode number plus line number.

Erich Auerbach:

- LL Erich Auerbach, *Literary Language and Its Public in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, trans. Ralph Manheim (New York: Pantheon Books, 1965).
- M Erich Auerbach, *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*, trans. Willard R. Trask (Princeton University Press, 1953).
- NW Giambattista Vico, *Die Neue Wissenschaft über die gemeinschaftliche Natur der Völker*, trans. and intr. by Erich Auerbach (Munich: Allgemeine Verlagsanstalt, 1924).

Isaiah Berlin:

- VH Isaiah Berlin, *Vico and Herder: Two Studies in the History of Ideas* (London: Hogarth Press, 1976).