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The evaporation of the human content in the idea of Progress was intrinsically connected with a hypertrophical degeneration of historicism into historicism, which set in at the end of the nineteenth century.

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All such characteristics of history which make it unscientific, may, I believe, be derived from one essential difference in the foundations of history and science. Science is still based on the old assumption of the stability, immutability, and immovability of nature, which alone makes the establishment of "laws of nature" possible. Although the limitations of this assumption have recently begun to come into sight, the dimensional differences, spatial and temporal, between the human observer and the remotest moves of the forces of nature, the distances of human perspective, still make it possible and fruitful for human uses to act as if nature were stable. In fact, in human perspective nature is stable, its actual, fundamental changes and irregularities taking place in such gigantic and minuscule time-spaces, that they are irrelevant to human circumstances. On this basis of stable conditions, science can count on precisely quantifiable and accurately predictable regularities, it can establish "laws of nature," relatively, "statistically," valid as they may have shown to be on remote frontiers.