The article discusses the concept of "crisis" in Reinhart Koselleck's works. The concept of crisis is thematized within the theoretical frame of the Begriffsgeschichte, which analyzes both the semantic evolution of historical concepts and the constant tension between these concepts and the factual history, so being deeply concerned with the methodological dialectic between semasiology and onomasiology, and constantly calling into question the relationship between history and language. The peculiarity of Koselleck's analysis of "crisis", though, lies not only in its location within the theoretical frame of the conceptual history. The specific transformation of the word "crisis" in the modern era also reveals fundamental aspects of that historical age. Koselleck, indeed, states a relation between historical factuality and its linguistic annotation, a relation that cannot be reduced to a complete juxtaposition, but is played in a constant and irreducible tension between the factual and the conceptual pole. Showing the articulations of the conceptual history of "crisis", this essay discuss the specific relationship between crisis and modernity in Koselleck's thought.

Keywords: Koselleck, conceptual history, social history, critique, crisis, modernity, historical temporality

Scopo di questo contributo è anzitutto ricostruire, nell’ambito della Begriffsgeschichte di Reinhart Koselleck, l’analisi che l’autore svolge del

1 La Begriffsgeschichte [storia concettuale] tenta di intrecciare produttivamente la ricerca storiografica in senso stretto con la storia del pensiero mediante lo studio dell’evoluzione semantica dei concetti. Per una ricostruzione del dibattito sulla Begriffsgeschichte, tra i numerosi contributi si vedano: E. Rothacker, Gleitwort, «Archiv für Begriffsgeschicht-