

Essential Question:

Why is historiography important and how can it be used?

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The Uses of History

- Sense of our own identity
- Better understand the present
 - “present-mindedness”
- Corrective for misleading analogies and “lessons” of the past
- Tendencies of humankind, of social institutions, and other aspects of human condition
- Develop tolerance and open-mindedness
- The basic background for many other disciplines
- Entertainment
- Critical thinking skills

Continuity and Change: The Stages of Historical Consciousness

- History as Fact
- History as Casual Sequence
- History as Complexity
- History as Interpretation
 - Moral certain and ambiguity
 - Absolute truth and relativism

**Historiography- the study of how
history is written & its various
perspectives / biases**

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Ontology, Epistemology, and Methodology

- **Ontology:** is the study of being or existence or to study conceptions of reality
- **Epistemology:** is the branch of philosophy that studies the nature and scope of knowledge
- **Methodology:** a body of methods, rules, and postulates employed by a discipline, a particular procedure or set of procedures, or the analysis of the principles or procedures of inquiry in a particular field

Positivist and Naturalist Axioms

Reality	Single, tangible, fragmentable	Multiple, constructed, holistic
Knower/ the known	independent, dualism	Interactive, inseparable
Possibility of generalization	Time and context-free	Time- and context-bound
Casual links	Real causes, distinguishable causes and effects	Mutual simultaneous shaping
Values	Inquiry is value-free	Inquiry is value-bound

Central idea:

Facts are integral to the study of history, but equally important is the meaning we give historical information

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Dominant Schools of Historiography

Consensus or traditional-

Argues that change results from consensus among various groups in society.

Division & class interest, etc. exist but are not central to the process of change.

Conflict or revisionist-

Opposite view

It views conflict among groups, classes, race, and gender, etc. as central to the process of change.

The Writing of History

- The Beginning”
 - Old Testament
 - Herodotus: *The Histories*, personal observations, surviving records, interviews of witnesses
 - Thucydides: *The History of Peloponnesian Wars*, verifiable, relevant facts only, explain events in a way that can be substantiated by evidence
 - Roman Empire
 - Renaissance
 - Machiavelli: *The Prince*
 - Guicciardini: *History of Italy*

The Writing of History Cont.

- Leopold Von Ranke and the rise of Modern History
 - Establishing history as a respected discipline in the universities
 - Firmly established the notion that all sound history must be based on primary sources and a rigorous methodology: footnotes and bibliography, scientific
 - Historical-mindedness

The Writing of History Cont.

- The nineteenth-century history
 - Political, legal, or diplomatic
 - Ethnocentric, nationalistic
- Karl Marx
 - Progressive Theory
 - Economics interpretation of history, economic determinism
- Sigmund Freud: Psychoanalysis
- The twentieth-century history
 - Social history: average men and women, marginalized groups
 - Women history
 - Psychohistory
 - The Impact of IT, computers, statistical packages

Types of History

Social

Constitutional

Political

Marxist / Conflict

Economic

Gender

Diplomatic

Eurocentric

Military

Afrocentric

Environmental Determinism

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