

HST 201: History of the United States (Escobar Meta 21035 21036)

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The Study of History

by Joe Escobar - Friday, October 10, 2014, 11:35 AM

This forum thread is for The Study of History posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. For purposes of encouraging discussion, you may decide to separate your responses into SEPARATE posts. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Study of History

Sum of ratings: -

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The Breaks in History

by Jordan Hadley - Sunday, October 12, 2014, 10:11 PM

I personally agree with position #2. When we learn History, we learn many dates and numbers. The dates that we learn are the most important ones of that period of time. Even though history is always being made, the important stuff is taught in the future. In 200 years, people in US history classes will be taught the dates like 9/11 or when Obama was elected as the first black president. They won't be taught things like the day a government official having a baby. I believe that these "breaks" in history aren't necessarily breaks, but just

lengths of time between the important events that occur.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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History is Linked



by Sierra Howard - Monday, October 13, 2014, 2:09 PM

I believe that everything in history is connected through the infinite continuum of time. As we discussed the first week in class, our founding fathers would undeniably be categorized as racist, chauvinistic pigs, by today's standards. However in their day, they were forward-thinking revolutionists that wove the fundamental fabric of my democratic right to act freely. Thus beginning, or continuing, the evolution of a revolution. In retrospect, it is easy to see the impact of the bold-minded individuals that paved the road to our future, right or wrong. These beacons are the map dots that lay out our history, and become indicative of the general direction in which we are headed. That being said, I believe that the lines connecting them (which in this case represents the masses) are of equal relevance and value, when retelling the story.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: The Study of History



by Aj Glessner - Monday, October 13, 2014, 2:54 PM

I tend to lean more towards the idea that history is continuous. Even when looking at big changes in the course of history, if you look back at the events beforehand, these big changes make sense. You see the choices and events that lead up to this huge change. The American Revolution for example. The end result was a huge turn in the course of history, but if you analyze the events that lead up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it's easy to see that the new nation of the U.S. was being formed long before the Revolution.

I feel that there is a cause to everything, and even big surprising changes are not that surprising if one goes back and looks at the events that caused that change to take place.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Doomed to repeat it.



by Connor Fields - Monday, October 13, 2014, 6:42 PM

History is an enormous topic filled with the traditions, beliefs, and encounters of countless people through out time. To say that history as a whole is made up of sharp breaks that each take it in a new direction is hard to understand. For me history has always been about the people and the cause and effect that one group or groups of people have on another. This, in my opinion, leans toward a more fluid type of history and a continuous one. The phrase "sharp breaks" leads my mind to think of irrational decisions about war or peace and I am sure there are examples of when this has happened somewhere in history. But the vast majority of history is about cause and effect. The religious wars in Europe caused the decline of 1640 which lead to the instability of the colonies and gave the many Indian tribes surrounding the colonies chance to attack. This instance in history and many like it are not random sharp breaks but the effect of something that happened many years ago or in a far away land. It may not sound as connected as it is when you discuss the Religion wars in Europe that happened for centuries and the large scale Indian attacks on the colonies around 1640 but when you trace back the cause and effects of each occurrence you see that they are very related. History is the same; filled with countless causes some of which the effects are not seen for many years. Each having a connection to the next, all of which are continuous.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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History: It's a bit complex



by Sullivan Paulson - Monday, October 13, 2014, 8:08 PM

Personally, I tend to lean towards the second argument in favor of the idea that there are sharp breaks in history. However, it's important to understand that the events that happened before a "break point" do have an impact on how later events will unfold. In my opinion, the best way to think about it is that even if you don't think earlier events have a noticeable effect on later events, the people and culture of the time definitely thought they did. A better understanding of the people and culture that created the history you are studying can help you

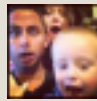
understand the history they created.

As a subject of study, History is hard to match for both its complexity and the large amount of detail needed to understand it. I like to use the study of Astrophysics as a comparison to history because I think the two subjects have parallels in the mindset required to think about them. Astrophysicists also deal with large time frames. They use all the available information and attempt to better understand how the past affects the present and how it may affect the future. (In a broad way)

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: History: It's a bit complex



by Adam Graves - Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 11:09 PM

I like the comparison of history to astrophysics. I think you make a good point by stating that they both compare time frames and mainly because I'm a fan of Cosmos on Fox which is where I solely get all my astrophysics and astronomy education. But not sure how we are using the past specifically the time periods were going over in class right now 1600-1700 in shaping the future. We still deal with the separation of church and state issues and groups like this one <http://standupforreligiousfreedom.com> are prime examples of it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: History: It's a bit complex



by Cristian Martinez - Saturday, October 18, 2014, 6:38 PM

Your ideas were explained well enough for me to understand and see things from your perspective here. Things don't always have to be only one way or the other; Instead, you should always expect there to be some form of integration between ideas. Also, the analogy comparing Astrophysics and History was well thought out. Nice job!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Continuous But With Turning Points



by Ashley Lazorchak - Monday, October 13, 2014, 11:43 PM

Attempting to remember the material from any previous history class that I have taken is more difficult than I would like for it to be. The way history was taught in public schools that I attended benefited me very little. From what I recall, most of my history classes were out of order and with that being said, it made it very challenging to remember all of the events that took place. If it were my choice, studying history from the very beginning and progressing throughout the years of my schooling would be more ideal. The argument: “you must know all of the things about previous history in order to understand the specific history you are currently studying” is both true and false in my eyes. It is partially true for me because in order for me to remember the events, having them be in chronological order definitely helps; although, that is not the case for everyone. Despite the fact that I would prefer to learn everything in chronological order, learning about specific events without knowing previous facts does not take away from my learning. If you have all of the facts about a specific event without having the facts about what happened previously, you are still capable of understanding what took place in that specific event.

Choosing between arguments number one and number two is difficult for me. I believe they are both true in their own ways. Number one is true in the sense of it being continuous because it continues on and never stops; history is made every single day whether it is a drastic event or a small event. Stating everything in history is “connected” is hard to say considering every single thing is not connected, but can be influenced by other things (example: China invented block printing and the Arabs borrowed it in the 10th century – pg. 8 of textbook). As for number two, there have been many events in history that have taken place that could be considered “sharp breaks” that are more severe than other events; that has caused history to go in a new direction. One of the most commonly known events could be Christopher Columbus’ (pg. 15 of textbook) voyages and how they led to European contact with the Americas. Considering it was on accident, that could be a sharp break in history. As for other examples, slavery and disease was a huge turning point for history as well. Slavery (starting with Moslem captives

– pg. 9 of textbook) influenced labor and trade amongst the world. Disease (starting with smallpox/bubonic plague – pg. 5 of textbook) killed thousands of people, which had a vast effect on population. Referring back to Christopher Columbus, one of his passenger's brought syphilis to Europe. Another example of disease spread is when Hernando de Soto explored the southeastern United States in quest of treasures all while spreading disease as he went (pg. – 32 of textbook). In conclusion, while history is continuous, there will always be events that outweigh others; that has a more crucial effect and can be referred to as "sharp breaks" in history.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: Continuous But With Turning Points

by Ronald Howard - Saturday, October 18, 2014, 8:51 PM

I like how you used examples to define what "sharp break" means to you and what continuous means. I agree that it is difficult to choose between both because there are examples of how history is both continuous and made up of "sharp breaks."
"Despite the fact that I would prefer to learn everything in chronological order, learning about specific events without knowing previous facts does not take away from my learning." I think this is a really good point that definitely helps out option #2. Although someone could argue that your understanding of a certain event would not be complete without knowing all the previous events connected to it, I think there are parts of history we can learn without knowing every detail.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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History takes sharp turns

by Cristian Martinez - Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 3:24 AM

When it comes to a topic as diverse as World History, I feel as though it is a lot more complex than just simply 'everything's connected'. History not only happens at one place at a time but several. Looking into the first

chapter of our textbook, it gives you information about the early European exploration and even talks about the Ice Age. Although the Ice Age was a part of our history, it doesn't exactly connect to the story about the Europeans. Sure, history does seem to follow a storyline at times but that doesn't mean there aren't other big historic events happening elsewhere. For this reason, I can only think the author also believes history takes sharp turns, just as well as I do.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: History takes sharp turns



by Ronald Howard - Saturday, October 18, 2014, 9:06 PM

I like the point you made that history happens in several places and is not necessarily connected. A good example of this would be the Aztecs and the Egyptians making pyramids at the same time without having any communication.

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Re: The Study of History



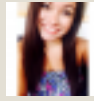
by Adam Graves - Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 9:35 PM

I think that I lean to theory two. As well agree to the fact that what you learn about american history does seem to jump all over the place from grade school to high school. Why I tend to lean toward theory two is mainly cause given what I've read so far it's hard to believe all is connected. Specifically in chapter three where the authors reference England Creating the Navigation Act to help balance out trade. They thought by limited trafficking of goods and making laws to control the flow of exports and imports, in a effort to capitalize on the colonies staple crops and goods. The problem with this is that with people of the colony realized that the power of the country comes from what your able to produce and be able to trade freely. This practice is known as Mercantilism. These are a couple ideas from the text book page 92 about mercantilism and page 94 to refer the first navigation act and the balance of trade. These points helped me conclude that the English not realizing that the colonist were still going to trade to Dutch and that they didn't have the means to govern the navigation

act; was what lead me believe that things aren't connected and that there isn't always continuous.

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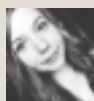
A Sociological Reaction to The Study of History

by Mariana Paredones - Friday, October 17, 2014, 12:26 AM

In Muller's audio lecture "The Study of History"; he discusses the educational experiences, and so on regarding a critical constructive view on studying history. The colonial era, age of exploration, crusades; contributing to how 'we' are taught history. Muller mentions a German philosopher and brings out the first intellectual argument that: "to understand history you must know all history, it is continuous". This was appealing to me, because I would *ideally* expect history to coincide and fluctuate progression. However the counter-view is: There are sharp breaks in history, that turn history in a completely new direction. It's important to look at history, culture and social patterns from the means of the adaptations each society in the time frames have taken. I don't support or lean towards either argument, I believe history is too complex to believe in the progression or better-hood as time passes. It is evident to see history repeat itself or to see the prior aggressions still present in our modern society. I also don't support that there are *sharp breaks* in history that turn history in a new direction. Personally, that sounds like history was predestined and that these sharp breaks would turn history. It's not a break. It is the people, advancements, political structures, technology and patterns that contribute to how 'we' should study and understand history.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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The Puritan Effect

by Ashley Lazorchak - Friday, October 17, 2014, 2:03 PM

As for another example of a "sharp break" in history, religion could be considered at the top of the list. It has caused an abundance of wars, shaped cultures and is still even causing conflict today. To me, religion is a strange concept and the way it has affected our society is surprising. Religion has played an important role on

society simply because people want something to believe in. They wanted answers to questions, thus, why religion stuck. In my opinion, one of the biggest turning points for history, and even religion, was the Puritans (pg. 43, 65-70/Puritan video). Their view of religion and life went hand in hand. They based everything they did on what their "God" would accept and want, even building their towns around a church. They had connection to the Pequot massacre (pg. 69, pg. 98) that killed many individuals, and The Salem Witch Trials (pg. 109) that killed many innocent people as well. Some view the Puritans as "crazy" but to me they had one of the biggest influences on religion that still affects aspects of religion today.

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History can be told in "chunks", but will not be fully understood until everything is uncovered

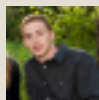
by Ronald Howard - Friday, October 17, 2014, 5:21 PM

I think to get the full picture and have a complete understanding of why certain things happen throughout history, you need to look at history as if it were continuous. After reading the first three chapters, I think the authors were forced to only show the "sharp breaks" in history due to the amount of content we are covering in this class.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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History is how it is remembered

by Ronald Howard - Saturday, October 18, 2014, 10:51 PM

While I understand the continuous philosophical argument that Professor James Muller mentioned, I am currently leaning towards option #1, that there are sharp breaks in history that turn it in a completely new direction. After reading chapters 1, 2, and 3, I felt like I was being delivered chunks of information from vast time periods. On (pg 2, ch1) it describes the the chronology but then it started skipping around to different time periods (pg 20, ch1 for example). By chapter 2, we had already reached the 1600's, and the chronological dates in chapter 1 start at 12,000 B.C.E. This makes it hard to comprehend being able to have a continuous outlook on history, knowing you

would need to have access to the information about everything that's ever happened to gain a full understanding of history.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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(Puritanism & Islam) Next >

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