

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, 11:36 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

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Stuck in the middle

by Courtney Tullock - Sunday, October 12, 2014, 4:12 PM

I believe history is made up of both philosophies. Everything is connected and builds on itself but there are definitely sharp breaks that change the course. I think our textbook authors would agree with me as well mostly based off of the way in which our textbook is put together. Reading through the chapters has been a grueling process because the authors jump around in time so often. I have come to the conclusion the reason they do this is because they want us to recognize that the events are all connected. For example, on page 76,

they discuss how the Quakers are able to experiment with pacifism but only because New York and the Iroquois unintentionally protect the area in which they reside. However, the Quakers don't reap the benefits for almost decade. Also, there are numerous examples of the second philosophy. Columbus' discovery of "the New World", the beginning of tobacco and rice staple crops, the switch from indentured servitude to slavery, these are all examples of sharp turns in history that would change the course forever.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Nothing Ever Comes Easy



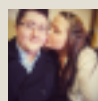
by Kendra Helgeson - Sunday, October 12, 2014, 10:23 PM

I'm personally leaning towards position number 2 and I do think the book authors seem to support that. For example, in chapter 3 they bring up the Salem Witch Trials. At the end of that passage they state that the trials initially came to and end because the governors wife was accused of witchcraft. It provided a finale to the era of political uncertainty which had afflicted Massachusetts since their loss of the colony charter. With the new charter, it brought the Puritan era to a close. If his wife had never been accused, there's a possibility it could have ended a whole lot differently. There were also a lot of gruesome wars between the colonists and Indians, along with the diseases that were brought over, that made a big impact on how people did things back then and how they dealt with it. If no one had the courage to sail westwards to discover the new world, would we be here today? If no one felt like declaring this country as independent, what would it be like today? So many things could be different today if even one thing like that didn't happen.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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People don't change



by Zachary Ehrhardt - Monday, October 13, 2014, 1:00 PM

Personally, I believe that history is all continuous. I believe that history builds upon itself and that people never change; meaning that although new technologies come along and new events happen, people will react in a similar way to these new conditions. For example,

when Martin Luther tacked his 95 theses to the church door and founded Protestantism, people acted in a similar way regardless of whether they were Protestant or Catholic. Two great examples are the imposition of Protestantism by Henry VIII, and the re-imposition of Catholicism by Mary I, and then the re-imposition of Protestantism by Elizabeth I. Regardless of who of the 3 were changing the country's religion, they believed they were right, and were willing to burn people for their cause. (pg 51) I believe that although things change throughout history, people do not, and will react in a similar way to how they have always reacted.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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History is continuous



by Cody Faurie - Monday, October 13, 2014, 9:53 PM

I personally lean more towards position number one. History is continuous, decisions made by those before us lead to ideas and later decisions we make. To understand history I believe we need to understand why these decisions are made and for what reason. To do this we have to look earlier into history to see what led up to these events that took place. As was said by Edmund Burke, "Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it." I don't believe he meant only the parts of history we think are important when he said this.

From what I can tell for our book "Liberty, Equality and Power" the authors also look at history from the number one continuous point of view (chapter one, page three). They start off talking about the ice age some 12,000 years ago, far before Professor James Muller believes U.S. History should start. Throughout this book the authors thoroughly discussed many things that happened leading up to the discovery of the Americas.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Study of History



by Jackson Baker - Monday, October 13, 2014, 10:50 PM

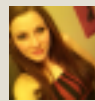
I tend to lean towards the idea that there are sharp breaks in history that turn history in a completely new direction. As stated by lecturer James Muller, it's usually

defined by war. A prime example of this is the way history books are written, There will be one chapter covering a span of 20 or more years of peace and then another covering only 3-4 years of war.If you think of the moments that cause the most change through out history it is either war, the end result of war or violence. At the end of the day, history is about the story of our past . People don't want to read or remember the peaceful times, they want to read about the struggle of our people and the trials our ancestors faced in order to help affect who we are as a global society. Our text book authors echo this point by in the first chapter by putting an emphasis on the tragedy brought upon the native Americans by the European invaders. This is further echoed again in chapter three while discussing the Native American revolts against the European conquerors. Through glorifying violence and emphasizing human suffering, historians cater to a human condition that spans cultures and time periods. Historians depict the past in manner that shows individual wars are worthy of their own chapter.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: The Study of History



by Saleena Smith - Saturday, October 18, 2014, 1:49 AM

Jackson, certain examples in the book and my own personal opinion lead me to draw similar conclusions to your own regarding James Muller's philosophies. I firmly believe that the victor writes the story, writes the history that is taught to generations and generations of people. I also believe this is where our short breaks in history come from. I think you would agree with me that the story of our world is getting harder to decipher with each new and passing war. More time should be spent with our parents and grandparents asking them questions about their past instead of scrolling through last weeks Facebook updates.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: The Study of History



by Jonathan Blake - Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 12:17 AM

moment after moment is what make history. learning these step by step processes is what helps us understand the origin of the United States of America. we must learn the origin of our culture before we can understand the meaning of the country that we live upon. with that being said i also agree with the #2 statement. there are certain sharp changes in history that certainly changed the course of history,ultimately turning theUSA into what it is today.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Every thing is connected!



by Cassandra Bennett - Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 1:34 AM

I feel as if everything is most definitely connected to past events. For example if Christopher Columbus had never re discovered the Americas, and established lasting contact, Europe and America would never have been able to trade and sell goods like tobacco. Even in this day and time tobacco is bought and sold throughout the world! I feel that the way the book is written it starts with Columbus and discovering America , and takes you through the sequence of events that leads up to present day.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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US History does not start in 1776



by Saleena Smith - Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 12:08 PM

I have always seen history as an important part of my education experience. I think that it is important to come up with your own views and philosophies about the way that the world works and how history has been passed down and taught to us. Professor James Muller believes that there are two separate arguments that need to be considered when contemplating history. The first argument is history is continuous, you must learn about a particular event by the history behind the event, you must realize everything is related to everyone and everything around it. The second argument is that there are sharp breaks in history that change it in a completely new way.

Muller stated that Winston Churchill believes that there are sharp breaks in history due to war. To me,

this view can be seen all though out history. During the line of rulers before Elizabeth, read in our 2nd chapter, religion had changed after every sibling ruler making it very difficult to imagine how the people following their rulers were able to deal with that. Muller believes that US history should start at 1776 when we first established ourselves as a nation. I have to disagree.

Experiencing life, to me, is experiencing other people's stories and trying to put yourself into their shoes. Trying to gain a firm collection of other's stories to try to find the truth about what really has happened in the past is a difficult feat to try to wrap your head around. I believe that history is continuous and we do have to look at outside influential factors in order to grasp the fundamental question of WHY something was done. Not just that it was done and we don't know how it happened. I also believe that the authors of our text book would agree with me on this. I have noticed that they have pulled in past history when trying to explain a fundamental aspect of our nation's history. The book doesn't start at 1776 like Muller would have liked. It starts with the expansion and exploration of peoples to other peoples. The exchange of information. The exchange of stories.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: The Study of History



by Michael Bennett - Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 11:00 PM



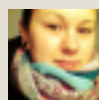
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read attached document..

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Must we know all the things?



by Morgan Monroe - Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 4:06 PM

I listened to the audio file and I did not have the same experience as the professors experience with learning American history throughout school. Most my time all the way through school we started with colonial America and worked our way to the 70s I found this to be the same from elementary school all the way through high school.

I feel that history is continuous but our past is important for us to understand and to connect with so that we can create better futures. I don't believe that there are no breaks. I also don't think the authors felt this way either. There are very specific breaks and moments in history that alter and change our world as we know it. New discoveries, new explorations have changed our understanding of the world. We've discovered new cultures new types of people new tribes. I think the authors of our history books think that it's important to understand where we came from but that history also has specific breaks and changes. At the beginning of each chapter there is a chronology to look at which has specific dates and times and certain breaks that have historical significance.

Sum of ratings: -

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Seeing grey



by Cassandra Bennett - Thursday, October 16, 2014, 11:52 PM

During the readings in our text book I've also noticed That the authors take on both perspectives in writing this book. They start off before the discovery of the Americas, the authors are taking their time explaining every event and their significance in history. To me this process seems to coincide with argument # 1. On the other hand our text seems to Spend a lot more time on the more significant events for example: War & Diseases It seems as if these are a focused to the authors because it does Significant change history favoring argument 2. It seems to me its hard for me to choose one side black and white To me I'm still in the grey!

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Last looks



by Courtney Tullock - Saturday, October 18, 2014, 6:18 PM

I wasn't sure what else to say about this topic or how to respond to everyone's thoughts about it so instead I have reviewed chapters 1-3 and listened to James Muller's lecture again to see if anything stuck out to me. When Muller speaks about Lincoln and his reference to the signing of the declaration of independence and

ultimately the American Revolution it occurred to me that he is giving us a prime example of both philosophies. The American Revolution set off a chain of events leading to the signing of the declaration. Nearly a century later Lincoln is giving the Gettysburg address and uses that movement to fuel his own. Both events are major turning points in history that would shape a different future than the one that was unfolding before them.

It seems obvious to me that history is compiled of both continuous events and sharp breaks that set us on different paths. If King Henry hadn't broken with the Catholic Church the Puritans would not have existed, Separatists wouldn't have founded Plymouth, history as we know it would be a completely different story.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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