



Search forums

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

< Previous (Historical Amnesia)

(Demonizing the Enemy) Next >



Historical Amnesia

by Joe Escobar - Friday, May 17, 2013, 9:28 PM

This forum thread is for Historical Amnesia posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the individual questions in 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.

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post.

Sum of ratings: -

Edit | Delete | Reply



Re: Historical Amnesia- Not OK

by Morgan Martinka - Monday, May 20, 2013, 7:07 PM

Intentionally forgetting, ignoring, or suppressing any historical event is cause for concern. How can we learn or grow from our mistakes if we don't know what they are? Nobody should have the right to "change history". I think it's absurd to ban historical events from textbooks because of the shame they may bring. It doesn't change the fact that it did indeed happen. In the case of Nanking I think acknowledging that it did happen is the very least Japan could do for all the people who were wronged.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Covering up

by Laura Wood - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 7:29 AM

I think that the worst part about all of this is that they are trying to cover up something that was obviously a huge part in Japan's history. Most of the children growing up now might not even know half of what happened. As a

citizen of Japan, I would want to know all of this because based off of history and now, history repeating itself is very common and one way to stop it from happening is to know what happened in the past in order to prevent it from ever happening in the present.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Michael Carlisle - Monday, May 20, 2013, 8:42 PM

After seeing this video my greatest concern is how can you just write off history. Changing history by not telling it doesn't mean it didn't happen. The fact is that war back then was brutal, and at times very uncivilized. You tell it with those facts because history is not made to be wrapped in a bow all nice and neat, its meant to be filled with the details of a gruesome war that shaped our history.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Morgan Martinka - Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 5:35 PM

Peoples' opinions and views of events will always differ. It is unlikely to ever read a history text that is 100% accurate, and without bias. To intentionally not document events, in hopes of erasing them, seems naive. We count on our elders and leaders to educate future generations; history books are somewhat like guidebooks for us. Japan banning the rape of Nanking from textbooks seems like a move of an overprotective parent sheltering their child from reality, which doesn't help them to learn or grow. I just don't see how it was helpful to these students, who were basically lied to. Did they think China would also forget about it and they would never find out? Your right "history is not meant to be wrapped in a bow all nice and neat". I would be ashamed of their attempt to sweep it under the rug rather than owning up to it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Rape of Nanking

by Minfeng Xu - Monday, May 20, 2013, 9:45 PM

Since Japan Government are trying to keep a lid on a stinking pot all the time, they cannot entirely conceal the things they did to China, which include Rape of Nanking and Bury Life in China. War Museum records all sickening things Japanese done in Wartime history.

Rape of Nanking is the memorial part, and I want to add it into the concerns. When

we think about war, we always refer to contradiction between countries. There is no relation with citizen especially children, elder and woman. However, there were 80,000 women including 7-70 years old raped by Japanese soldier during Nanking massacre, which indeed sick and crazy.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Tyler Kennedy - Monday, May 20, 2013, 11:12 PM

One of the gravest concerns of historical amnesia is losing a countries history. Now in no way shape or form should that be celebrated, but it shouldn't be ignored. (In a way like slavery in America) what sort of message would you be sending the relatives of the victims or the country it happened in if you're going to completely ignore what you did to them? That no way to make up for what you did in the past.

Another problem with not teaching that and ignoring it is that in a few generations the knowledge of what happened will be gone. And when that's gone you have no way to prevent that sort of thing from happening again if you don't have a historical example.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Historical Amnesia....Is it true?

by Nichole Sherman - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 12:00 AM

I believe that by erasing a countries history we are setting that country up for a repeat of what has already happend. If we erased our countries history of slavery how many people would feel insulted? How much more likely would we be to have another period of slavery. To erase a countries history is to erase part of their identity. Just like if we had a case of amnesia we would be losing our identity. We cannot allow any country to have historical amnesia because we are not just endangering there people but ours as well. It is in my opinion that we cannot learn from our mistakes if we do not remember them. History is not always pretty but that does not mean it can just disappear. It forms our country, the language we use, the values and dreams we have, traditions we carry out for generations.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Historical Amnesia

by Heather Groves - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 7:33 AM

Historical amnesia is bad in any case. We cannot simply forget some inconvenient things in our past to make it seem like we are better people. The example that I am

going to use is the civil war that broke out in Sierra Leone. Ishmael Beah was one of many children soldiers who was forced in to the war, and to kill countless people. But instead of hiding that fact, and all the horrible things that he was forced to do, he embraced it. He wrote a book about it, and talks about what happen to let it be know, to try and educate people.

I think that is the point of every history class. We can not just sit back, and not learn history because it has many lessons to be learned. I dislike much of Americas history, but it would be ignorant of me to say that these things did not happen, and help shape who Americans are today. The gravest concerns with historical amnesia to me is that by trying to forget some awful thing that we did, would one, miss an important lesson, and two, make us ignorant as to what happened. We need to learn from the past, so we can move forward.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Robert Sappington - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 12:11 PM

"Historical amnesia is bad in any case."

America forgot quick about what the British did to American ships the hundred years before WWI (boarding and taking sailors) and during early WWI (their blockade of Germany) The US had to have historical amnesia to be able to work with the British.

My point is, sometimes historical amnesia is used to work past difference.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Veronica Wilkens - Friday, May 24, 2013, 5:16 PM

I don't think the U.S. had historical amnesia so much as they chose to look past it. Working with the British doesn't mean we forgot what they did, it means we either chose to ignore it for the time being or we chose to forgive them. And to pre-empt any such questions no, I don't think ignore is the same as forget/amnesia.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Heather Groves - Friday, May 24, 2013, 7:35 PM

I havent forgotten those, and good points they are. I think that instead of

forgetting the bad things to be able to work past difference, that we should look at them, understand that they have happened, and then work past them. We have to be able to look at the past, and be able to past it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Robert Sappington - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 12:23 PM

I think every country likes to have historic Amnesia because of the "bad" that their own country has done in the past. To me, it seems people want to distance themselves from the bad because they had nothing to do with it and don't want to be associated with the bad. I mean, how would the average kid down the street in Germany like to be associated with NAZI's when he didn't have anything to do with them? Lets just forget it happened!

Everyone wants others to forget the wrong they did, but never waits to forget the wrong done to them!

I think the real issue arrives though, when a culture or society puts the event so far off that they question weather it happened or not. As the example in class, the death camps. No one wants to be associated with the death camps because of their evil, and not they are being question whether they happened or not! But the farther we get away in history from the event, the more people want to "bury the hatchet." Victims and the people who help the victims never forget.

Historical Amnesia can be good to help move on, but bad if we completely forget what happened.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Minfeng Xu - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 11:24 PM

I totally agree when you said, "Historical Amnesia can be good to help move on, but bad if we completely forget what happened". It is true to think that no one would want to relate with the bad thing. A country, of course, concern about their "outlook", which is important to leave a good reputation or impression to other countries during they are doing the diplomatic relations. Although the evil things they did in the history isn't affect what they are right now because everyone will change after they went through the process of regret and self-examination, it still make others be disgusted with, or even guard against the country. In this case, I think every country should commit what they did in the world all the time, be faithful and peaceful to tell and explain how the evil things happened, and how to fix and avoid the problem happened again.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Nichole Sherman - Friday, May 24, 2013, 4:06 PM

As I said earlier I do not believe that historical amnesia is ok. However after reading some of the other classmates post I begin to wonder if it's really all that bad. I believe that historical amnesia is ok when *it comes to being able to overcome differences with other countries. However, I do feel as if historical amnesia is bad if we forget what really happend. We cannot forget our past, our identity otherwise we are lost. If a country has historical amnesia they are likely to repeat their mistakes. Historical amnesia is likely to cause tension between countries and make it so that countries do not want to have contact with the country that has historical amnesia. I believe that if a country is purposely having historical amnesia then that says something about their character but then again it could mean they feel guilty. I agree with everyone that has posted above me. Historical amnesia is good and bad, it is neither black or white and we cannot look at it as if we are innocent. Our country likes to forget about slavery, the internment camps for the japense, as well as our very own civil war. We are not always heros. Therefore, I say that historical amnesia is bad because it causes a country to forget it's mistakes and identity but it is good because it allows us to work with coutries we have had bad relations with in the past.*

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Veronica Wilkens - Friday, May 24, 2013, 5:20 PM

Amnesia for the purpose of overcoming differences with other countries is great, but I think it should only be on the losing side, and should better referred to as *forgiveness*. If you're the country who did bad things (in this case, Japan), trying to forget it ever happened and refusing to recognize and ultimately apologize for it is only going to make the country you hurt (in this case, China) more upset. If China were to "forget" the event and move on, then great. But they didn't and they wanted Japan to own up. And I think they should.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Historical Amnesia

by Heather Groves - Friday, May 24, 2013, 7:43 PM

But is it historical amnesia to work out the bad relations? Or do we need work things out? Example two good friends can have a lot of big fights in their past, but they have over come them, but have not forgotten them, because they have learned from them. I still do not think that Historical Amnesia is a good thing, but

by putting the past aside to help move forward with other countries is a good thing. In contradicting what I said though, it is not black and white. I say this because after re-reading -"*Historical amnesia is good and bad, it is neither black or white and we cannot look at it as if we are innocent.*" We need to look at things from very side, and then come up with the answer.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Forget-Me-Not

by Veronica Wilkens - Friday, May 24, 2013, 5:30 PM

The gravest concerns in historical amnesia is, in my opinion, the backlash of the country's citizens and of other countries. As shown in the article, not everyone in Japan chose to forget that Nanking ever happened and they thought it quite important to keep that history alive. They mentioned that now is a crucial part of history in which some are forgetting Japan's whole role in the war. People like those interviewed may be most upset by historical amnesia. Moreover, what happens when a few generations go by and small sects are still teaching a different history than that of mainstream, government approved schools? I think later generations may end up confused, trying to learn the truth but torn between two different doctrines.

Other countries are also quite affected by historical amnesia. I mentioned this in a reply to someone else's post and it made me think a bit more on the subject. In regards to Nanking, how do you think it makes the Chinese feel that Japanese soldiers would commit such heinous crimes and act as if nothing had happened? From an outsider's perspective it makes Japan look like they are trivializing the acts, which is completely inappropriate. For two honor-based cultures I can imagine the amount of insult this would deliver. We can't forget what we've done, not unless the people we did it to received an apology and have forgave us, so that we may move on.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Forget-Me-Not

by Minfeng Xu - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 11:33 PM

"the backlash of the country's citizens and of other countries." I like how you defined the phrase of historical amnesia. Yes, there still some of japanese who tried to keep the historical event alive. However, the Japanese Government, frist of all, need to commit what they did in history. They tried to hide every ture behind the citizen,and they even change or delete what they did from textbook in Japan. this is what foreigner like us mad with.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Forgetting History

by Robert Badewitz - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 6:16 PM

In my opinion, there are many consequences that come along with historical amnesia. Intentionally denying the facts of history is one of the worst things that can be done. It hurts people intellectually. Students in school, or even just people in general will not know the truth and be completely ignorant to there history. As said in the article some Ultra-nationalist Japanese want to destroy the museums hat hold the historical evidence of the Nanking rape. This does not only hurt the Japanese but also hurts the rest of the world. In that destroying these first had records of the incident this prevents the rest of the world seeing them.

Refusing to take responsibility for horrendous actions, such as of the Rape of Nanking, can also easily hurt the one the war crimes were committed against. In the video it is stated that some 300,000 Chinese were killed and 80,000 women. To deny this hurts the Chinese and the families that may still be alive after. To me to deny that facts of history is to say, we do not care what we have done, we do not care about the people we have killed. If historical amnesia continues to happen, who is to say that more heinous violent acts will not be forgotten tomorrow.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



sweeping it under the rug

by Haley Shaw - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 10:16 PM

There are several consequences to acting out historical amnesia. Every country is guilty of at some point in the history of their country trying to cut something out of the history books, or by changing the story enough so it doesn't sound so bad to the people reading about it in the present day. By just sweeping it under the rug they think that people will just forget about it. In doing this it harms how the people will see the history of their country when they find out the truth. It also harms the other country, if there is another involved. In my opinion it's not good for anyone to ignore the details of anything that has happened in history. It's far better just to learn from the mistakes and move on.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

[< Previous \(Historical Amnesia\)](#)

[\(Demonizing the Enemy\) Next >](#)

You are logged in as Joe Escobar (Logout)

Moodle Docs for this page

