

HST 203: History of the United States Sp14 (Escobar Meta 41237 41238)

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Historical Amnesia

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 10, 2014, 11:03 AM

This forum thread is for Historical Amnesia discussion.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your 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: Historical Amnesia

Sum of ratings: -

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Forgetting history

by Serena Williams - Monday, May 12, 2014, 10:05 PM

After watching the video on Nanking and reading the articles about historical amnesia I feel that every country should learn about the truth of its history no matter how dark and gruesome it may be. The events that happened in the past make our world what it is today and if we just pretend certain things didn't happen like in the case of Nanking, it prevents us from getting a consistent account of history. People who were actually present will say what really happened and "historical" books and articles will say what they change it to be in order to make someone sound better or try and forget critical events in history. I understand that maybe some people may be ashamed of what the people in their countries earlier centuries may have done in times of war but that's no reason to teach things that never happened and forget what really did.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Never forget

by Blake Taylor - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 8:27 AM

I completely agree with you, especially with your idea that some people may be ashamed of their countries past. In my opinion this can be a good thing if used for a catalyst for change. People knowing the full truth of their nations history can lead to citizens recognizing the potential for injustices in and outside of their own countries borders before they happen. Ignoring or pretending that an event never happened doesn't cause it to go away, it will only perpetuate the negative, but taking responsibility for our past and not hiding from it allows those who were hurt to heal and other to learn.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Or Just Covering it Up.

by Connor Fields - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 9:04 AM

While a little bit tangential to our class listening to how the Japanese banned the event from even their historical text books reminded me of Germany just a few months ago. There was a recent controversy with a new South Park Video game being published. Apparently in Germany it is considered illegal to have Swastikas even in a satirical fashion to help portray Nazis. This to me seems insane. We always here the saying "those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it" But what happens when a society tries to remove the past or hide it. This topic isn't just a historical one but a present day one as well.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Or Just Covering it Up.

by Blake Taylor - Friday, May 16, 2014, 10:32 AM

Wow, I had no idea that Swastikas are banned in Germany. I can understand the fear behind a Nazis uprising, but banning symbolism associated to them in my opinion is not the way to go. I believe education is the only way to but an end to the past. Hiding from the past only perpetuates the problem.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Or Just Covering it Up.

by Karla Miller - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:55 PM

I also did not know that swastikas were banned in Germany, but I do understand it. It is part of their history they would like to forget, but the world will never let them. I am of German heritage and do not like having that as a part of my family history. I have not found any Nazis my family, but it is still a bad section I would like to forget.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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To the victors go the spoils

by Thomas Stevens - Friday, May 16, 2014, 4:06 PM

Those who win the wars get to write the history. If the Nazis had won they would have written about how they freed the World from Jewish oppression, perhaps because they were so victimized by what happened after WWI. Few people talk about how they were blamed for WWI, but yet, all that happened was that they were on the "losing" side.

I agree with you that it's important to tell the full story, but we can't even do that in our own country when people from the Duck Dynasty think that African Americans were better off when slavery was around. And, yet their TV show lives on, and nobody protests that. Please spare me the sensibility that we as Americans are so fair!

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: To the victors go the spoils

by Serena Williams - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 8:41 PM

I definitely don't think that America is excluded from historical amnesia. We are just as guilty as the next guy and there are plenty of examples as to why, like you mentioned with the Duck Dynasty situation. Thomas, I also think you bring up an interesting point when you said, "Those who win the wars get to write the history." I had never thought of this before now but it's starting to make sense to me.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Rewriting of History

by Karla Miller - Monday, May 12, 2014, 10:23 PM

After reading the article about the Japanese text books, it reminded me about a topic from a previous class. I was about how authors and historians from the north and south depicted the events of the Civil War. Each side tried to describe plantation life. The North, of course, told of how much the slaves suffered at the hands of the owners. The South tried to let people know how well they treated the slaves. I wish I still had my documents book from last term, but I had to read one that was written by a plantation owner. He stated how the slaves were like his children and needed to be taken care of because they did not know how to. The owner described the houses of the slaves were solid structures, and how he managed to teach them how to keep it clean. The owner also said that he arranged for a doctor to come every month to check on the health of his children. If the slaves were sick it was their fault by not cleaning the pots and pans correctly or washing their clothes well enough. The writing of history is definitely from the perspective of the author or historian. Each side

thinks they are right and that the world will believe them. I remember the history books from high school and how the U.S. was always the heroes for the world. No country wants to be the bad guy, it's someone else's fault.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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The forgotten history in Vietnam War

by Tran Nguyen - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 12:03 AM



Watching and reading "the hidden Holocaust" reminds of some "incidents" happened in Vietnam War that were covered by the government during and after the war.

Many people have never heard of Con Son Island in Vietnam, but it was hell on Earth for Communist and protestors against Saigon government at the time. According to Don Luce who wrote "We've Been Here Before: The Tiger Cages of Vietnam," around 20,000 people died in five foot by nine-foot cages called "tiger cages." Some of them were students, Buddhists and writers. Although prisoners were tortured to death by Saigon police, the U.S. was the one who paid them to proceed so. (<http://hnn.us/article/11001>)

What surprised me was that there is such little information about the "tiger cages" is online. Not to mention none of this information was mentioned in our textbook. Except for the pictures that Tom Harkin (a American congressman) took got published in *Life* magazine, almost none of "tiger cages" information was known to public.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The forgotten history in Vietnam War

by Bart Golden - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 3:17 AM

Students, Buddhists and writers, sounds like a dangerous bunch. Not surprising that it has been washed over. Almost like it never happened. Rest assured its only forgotten because its being hidden witch means its not forgotten by someone. I don't think its the Japanese, obviously they're not the only ones that wish to revise history. To me this is an admission of guilt and it blows my mind that this type of deceit doesn't ignite emotion in more people. I wonder why. Its alarming how passive we have become.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Historical Amnesia

by Katie Birrenkott - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 1:22 AM

Historical amnesia's most serious concerns are not having a country realize what has happened in the past that was a major issue. Without this they are making light of the actual events that happened and are therefore not showing students the severity of the past. For instance Japan calling the massacre an incident not only distorts the actual depictions of Japan in Nanking, but it can also encourages people to make fluff talk of other events that are actually larger issues.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Historical Amnesia

by Karla Miller - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:17 PM

When each country writes about their history, some one else is the demon . It's not just the U.S. and Japan that are changing what the truth is. I watch the history channel most of the time, and learning more information. This channel does not always say every detail about certain events, but they are definety more specific than the text books that I have studied.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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If we only knew

by Bart Golden - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 2:30 AM

This is a subject that I have been aware of for some time and I find it very disturbing. Out of curiosity I googled McGraw-Hill the top publisher of educational materials in the US. Headquartered in the Rockefeller plaza New York City. I have provided just a tiny sample of the wiki page on McGraw-Hill. I think that it illustrates the strangle hold that big business has on what we are taught and the image that is portrayed of our history. It probably doesn't take much for the truth to lose its way under this kind of control system

The word revisionist is a new one to me and I find it to be very offensive. I wish that there more organizations that fought to preserve the truth like Fumiko Niki and the Chukiren Peace Museum. I think that if we weren't sugar coating our past, people would not be so quick to believe some of the ridiculous lies that we are told.

Date of acquisition	Asset acquired	Industry
1920	<i>Newton Falls Paper Company</i> ^[16]	-
1928	<i>A.W. Shaw Company</i> ^[16]	-
1950s	<i>Gregg Company</i> ^[16]	Publisher of vocational textbooks
1953	Companies of Warren C Platts, including <i>Platts</i> ^{[16][17]}	Publisher of petroleum industry information
1961	<i>F.W. Dodge Corporation</i> ^[18]	Publisher of construction industry information
1965	<i>California Test Bureau</i> ^[16]	Developer of educational testing systems
1966	<i>Standard & Poor's</i> ^[18]	Financial Services
1968	<i>National Radio Institute</i>	Correspondence School
1970	<i>The Ryerson Press</i>	Educational and trade publishing
1972	Television Stations of <i>Time Life Broadcasting</i> ^[18]	Broadcasting
1986	The Economy Company ^[5]	Educational publishing
1996	<i>Random House Schools and Colleges</i> ^[19]	Educational publishing
1996	<i>Times Mirror Higher Education</i> ^[20]	Educational publishing
1997	<i>Micropal Group Limited</i> ^[20]	Financial Services

1999	<i>Appleton & Lange</i> ^[21]	Publisher of medical information
2000	<i>Tribune Education</i> , including <i>NTC/Contemporary</i> ^[22]	Publisher of supplementary educational materials
2002	<i>Open University Press</i>	University press - academic publications
2005	J.D. Power & Associates ^[23]	Marketing information provider

Note that this list only includes acquisitions made by McGraw-Hill, not its subsidiaries. McGraw-Hill typically does not release financial information regarding its acquisitions or divestitures.

Partnerships[edit]

McGraw-Hill has partnered with five other higher-education publishers to create CourseSmart, a company developed to sell college textbooks in eTextbook format on a common platform.^[24]

Connection to the family of George W. Bush[edit]

The McGraws and the George W. Bush/George H.W. Bush family have close ties, going back generations. According to McGraw-Hill, Barbara Bush is a member of their advisory board.^[26] Their California Test Bureau division has provided testing material integral to No Child Left Behind, a George W. Bush White House program.^[27]

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Hiding from the truth



by Jaalen Johnson - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 4:27 AM

I believe that giving the bad parts of our American history the cold shoulder is absolutely wrong. One of the first things that comes to mind when I think about this is America trying to rewrite there history by total whipping out all of the Japanese internment camps. it not only hurts the fact that we wont be able to ever see what was a real life like for the Japanese-americans duing WW2. Just because it was a terrible thing the US did, it doesn't give us the right to try to erase it as if it never happened.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Hiding from the truth



by Serena Williams - Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 10:05 AM



I agree with what you said above. I believe that it's not right to try and erase history because the things that happened were mortifying and brutal like the internment camps. If we learn about our history and the consequences of the events it can help future generations from making the same mistakes.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Hiding from the truth

by Karla Miller - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:47 PM

The problem with trying to make sure that past mistakes are not repeated is that it has to do with the amnesia part. Slavery and internment camps will never happen in the U.S. again, but just look at the news today. Hussein of Iraq and Assad of Syria are doing what Hitler did. Using chemical weapons on their own people. Every thing that we are learning in this class is really close to the details of the time, but I grew up in some of this. I remember newscasters trying to stop certain things that were happening in the government or my parents living through it.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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give the peace museum a chance!

by Jennifer Rose - Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 9:35 AM

I admire Fumiko Niki and the other activists, academics and soldiers who founded the Chuckire Peace Museum. The museum displays the really gritty and disturbing side of war, rather than an ultranationalist, distorted perspective. I think that the fact that the museum needs high-tech security speaks to how important spaces like this are, where speaking the truth is more important than covering up unpleasant history.

In my opinion, it's even more important to remember the horror, murder, and rape of war than the more favorable side... If the reprehensible aspects of inhumanity during wartime is made accessible to people, and is part of a country's working memory, hopefully people won't be so eager to go to war, and will be more likely to work out solutions and see war as a last result.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Truth as Prevention

by Miranda Townsend - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 10:09 PM

I agree with your idea that the founders of Chuckire Peace Museum are very admirable in their contributions towards truth. I also really liked your idea that featuring these real truths about war may lead to some prevention of these atrocities

in the future.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Historical Amnesia Diminishes People

by James Price - Thursday, May 15, 2014, 11:02 PM

After looking at all the material I believe that trying to alter or re-write controversial parts of history diminishes the people who lived through that part of history, as well as the contributions and sacrifices that they made. The downplaying of the Japanese Rape of Nanking (Forum Video), the Chinese governments actions at Tiananmen Square (Forum Article), and the erasing of Japanese internment camps in the U.S. (Class Lecture) all diminish the role, contributions and, sacrifices of the people who suffered through these times as well as the historical significance of the events themselves.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Historical Amnesia Diminishes People

by Karla Miller - Friday, May 16, 2014, 9:37 AM

The part about diminishing people by rewriting history, caught my eye. That is a point that I didn't think of. If a person wants to know what happened, they should talk to someone that lived through the event. All history is written by a person or persons that think they have found out everything .

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Not true!

by Thomas Stevens - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 11:08 PM

History is also written by people who utilize documents from the past. If that were true, no new history could be written.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Actions speak louder than words

by Blake Taylor - Friday, May 16, 2014, 12:09 PM

After reading Kristina Nwazota's article for NewsHour Extra, and learning of Japan's approval of a junior high school textbook that glosses over Japans atrocities against the Chinese during WWII, like the Chinese I am bothered by this. I know most countries are guilty of this including the USA doesn't make it okay. This practice of hiding the ugly past must stop.

I am reminded of Mr. Escobar's telling of a students grandparent who was placed into an

American Japanese interment camp. Many years later this students grandparent was given a check for \$20,000 and an apology letter from President Bush. Although the money didn't come close to full financial compinsation the apology, however, was priceless and well received. It wasn't until 2005 did Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi give a formal apology for Japan's actions towards China in WWII. In an article written by Achmad Ibrahim for USATODAY.COM writes

"That President Koizumi expressed this attitude in this arena is welcome. We welcome it," ministry spokesman Kong Quan told reporters at a summit of Asian and African leaders. "But to express it is one aspect. What's of much more importance is the action. You have to make it a reality."

Although an apology is a start in the right direction approving a textbook that glosses over your countries ugly past does nothing but throw fuel on an already blazing fire. Kong Quan is right Japan needs to follow up their apology with action, and approving a controversial textbook does nothing but rob the Chines of their truth.

http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/world/2005-04-22-japan-china_x.htm?csp=34

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Actions speak louder than words



by Karla Miller - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:27 PM

I do agree with your statement, but China also has to admit their failings too. They are not a perfect country. Their tactics to stop population growth and rebellion are way over done . They think that they are a great country, but telling people how many children are acceptable and also the running down of the student at the student protest at Tenniamen (I don't think I spelled that right). All historians need to include all the facts no matter how disgusting.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Historical Amnesia Promotes Lack of Responsibility



by Miranda Townsend - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:57 PM

I think one of the most important concerns regarding "historical amnesia" is the lack of responsibility, in this case by Japan, about the Rape of Nanking. There are also many moral issues when it comes to sweeping such atrocities under the so called rug. In addition to the lack of accountability, these blatant misrepresentations and distortions of history can have serious consequences today.

One of these includes the very real dilemma faced by the UN today of whether to allow Japan to become a permanent member on the United Nations Security Council and all the possible ramifications.

While I'm sure there are many things in history that are taught inconsistent with what actually happened, I think the idea of learning from our mistakes is a key component that shows how important the essence of the truth really is.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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If Japan was a member then what?



by Thomas Stevens - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 11:06 PM

Japan has resisted having its military leave its own borders. I do not see them joining the UN Security Council because there isn't any military might behind them. What would be the point?

Sum of ratings: (1)

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It seems pretty convincing to me



by Thomas Stevens - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 11:01 PM

I don't know why Japan would commit the atrocities presented in the materials. It defies description. Perhaps, we had as much hatred of the Chinese as the Japanese did and thus it was "easier" to dehumanize and commit atrocities. We should also think about what we did to African Americans throughout our history even in the last century. However, I don't recall war crimes trials being held to hold those responsible in either case.

The War Museum seems to indicate a cognizance of the events, however it also seems that Japanese conservatives are acting like conservatives in this country denying their past barbarism and callousness. There are differences between our two countries, besides the free health care that Japanese citizens enjoy. For one thing, Japan is very much a homogeneous culture with little diversity, whereas in this country we seem to be a salad bowl of culture, a lot of different elements that remain separate and unblended. It's amazing to me that we function as well as we do with that, I am not sure why. Secondly, Japan still maintains a monarchy that has served it for hundreds of years; whereas in this country our leadership seems to change with the wind.

The bottom line though is that I do not see any long term changes in the works. As long as we deny our fellow citizens medical care, food and housing there will always be injustice. The idea that conservatives push is that "people just need to pull themselves up by their bootstraps" is just empty rhetoric and shows the continuing scorn and abuse that has been heaped down on the suffering and the weak since the dawn of time. Perhaps, people can begin to see the barbarians that we have in our country as well of those who raped Nanking and be clear that there is little difference between the two. I am not holding my breath.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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