

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

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What about the Armenians

by Sherri Patterson - Saturday, May 10, 2014, 3:57 PM

When we are talking about historical amnesia my first thought goes to genocide of the Armenian from April 1915 to 1923. The population in 1915 was anywhere from 2 million [2] to 1.2 million [1]. By the end of the end of the war it is estimated that there was as less than a 100,000 left. What gets me is the genocide went on while the Ottoman Empire was fighting with the central powers during World War I. There were reports of what was going on. American protestant missionaries reported regularly. Many Americans spoke out against the genocide, including former president [Theodore Roosevelt](#), [rabbi Stephen Wise](#), [Alice Stone Blackwell](#), and [William Jennings Bryan](#), the [U.S. Secretary of State](#) to June 1915. In the U.S. and the United Kingdom, children were regularly reminded to clean their plates while eating and to "remember the starving Armenians" [1].[\[104\]](#) · We

had all that information at our hands and we didn't intervene and a whole race almost erased. And what I find even sadder is that it was almost like a stepping stone for Hitler. The things the Turks did to the Armenians it was just a blue print for what was to come. We lost 6-8 million Jews.

Historical amnesia. The Turkish republic adopt a policy dismissing charges of genocide and all atrocity. Basically it didn't happen. And hey I had never been thought this in school so I am sure this is not a real good mark on our history since we didn't do it so I am sure America wants to forget it. It sure looks like everybody would really like to forget this ever happened, but we need to make sure it isn't forgotten. For all of those who suffered, for those who survived. So it doesn't happen again

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Genocide#cite_note-106

[2] <http://www.armenian-genocide.org/genocide.html>



ARMENIAN HOLOCAUST

Here they lay the silent witnesses!
their silence is an outcry!
Never Again, Don't Forget!

motifake.com

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Re: What about the Armenians  



by Daniel Halverson - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 10:44 PM

This is something that has never been brought to my attention through all my years that I have been in school and it doesn't make me feel good at all. Not only do I feel terrible about the millions of lives that were lost and almost the extinction of a human race, but the fact that the US did nothing to help the matter. I understand that we would be involved with WWI, but I think that the US could have done something to stop the loss of so many Armenian lives. I agree also that this was potentially a stepping stone for Hitler in a sense that it let him know millions of lives have been taken before in a genocide and he could do the same. I ultimately feel that the main reason the US did nothing was because no American lives were being lost in the genocide, but instead making sure kids finished their food and to remember the "starving Armenians" as a way to make it look like they were in support but nit informing people on what was truly happening.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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The many shades, a grey zone if you will; In Regards to Historical Amnesia.

by Zachary Ogborn - Monday, May 12, 2014, 9:25 PM

Historical amnesia to me is a very 'grey' area. I'll define this as such; Just because something happens in history that is (*in the case of our Forum Material provided to us via moodle, our course Textbook, and class lectures*) a horrible atrocity, **Hitler's Holocaust**, **The Raping of Nanking**, and **numerous others** and people are ashamed of it, trying to deny its happening doesn't mean **EVERYONE** forgets about it.

I describe it as a grey area because the efforts made by Governments, Individuals, Religious Leaders, etc. **CAN** have tremendous influence in a Historical Amnesiac context. Those who have an influential position can '*spin a truth*' or '*describe events*' to make it seem as if a genocide wasn't as severe as it actually was, thus causing a national, religious, or affiliated populous to loose interest in or even deny such a horrific event. Just look at the **VERY** recent initiative by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to change national text books to down play WW2 Japanese aggressions and promote a Nationalist directive.

That being said, the people who truly know or have experienced such atrocities will never forget them. I guaranty they would never stop speaking out and educating peers and younger generations about what has happened. So in my mind I deem Historical Amnesia a 'grey' zone because some people ether forget about it, deny it, acknowledge it but downplay its severity, or continue to talk about and remember it. One of those 4 options or a combination of them. I'd say many shades of grey but I'm sure modern book culture has ruined that analogy.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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My perspective on the issue "historical amnesia"

by Shan Gao - Monday, May 12, 2014, 9:47 PM

3-1.doc

1. I think the discussions about the issue of "historical amnesia" can be mainly based on the

following framework: definition of historical amnesia, evidences from some literature and daily experience, its causes, the bad sides and good sides of historical amnesia, and how to avoid the bad sides of historical amnesia in different level.

2. The framework of the discussions can be shown more vividly through the following pictures that I draw on my pad, if you have any better discussion framework or something important to add to this one, could you please give me some suggestions?

3. And personally speaking, I would like to touch the practical sides of the "historical amnesia", which is "how to avoid the bad sides of historical amnesia", for example, what kinds of mechanism can be designed out to avoid country-level amnesia like Japan do after World War II, but before that, I need to do more about the basic parts of the issues, such as its definition, its causes and evidences. Do you agree with me on that?

4. I really think historical amnesia has a great implication for the era of globalization and information explosion of today, as people in this time are more likely to look ahead instead of looking back at the history. How to connect the history with the future may be an important issue derived from this discussion. But it is quite hard, isn't it?

5. So any advice on the discussion framework and some of my other points? Thx

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The purpose and consequences of historical amnesia



by Hao Nguyen - Monday, May 12, 2014, 11:15 PM

First of all, before discussing deeper this topic, let me define what "historical amnesia" actually means. "Historical Amnesia" is collective forgetting by a group of people. It could be a result of "forcible repression" of memories, ignorance, changing circumstances, or the forgetting that comes from changing interests. Protest, folklore, "local memory", and collective nostalgia are counter forces that combat social amnesia (Wikipedia).

Second, altering or leaving out some significant historical events serves the purpose of conserving one nation's, group of people's dignity towards others and gradually fading their negatively historical behaviors. In the case when Chinese schoolbooks omitted the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy demonstrations in which Chinese troops killed thousands of unarmed protestors, and the three-year famine between 1958 and 1961 when communist policies led to the starvation of an estimated 30 million Chinese, Maochun Yu, a history professor at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, reasoned "With rising Chinese nationalism, the efforts to rewrite history, to reinterpret history according to the demands of nationalism have become a major national pastime".

Third, the consequences of historical amnesia may lead to the lack of truly historical knowledge of younger generations, and the shortage of the unity between different countries' history education. Furthermore, changing a significant event can convert the story into another totally different moral which obtain a huge impact on people's thinking towards "the enemy" as "they did wrong, we were the right one". Due to that, mistakes are always hidden and taken away in a secret box; then, admitting and fixing those will never happen.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_amnesia



Evidences of historical amnesia

by Shan Gao - Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 8:21 AM

To look into the history of human civilization and individual development from the perspective

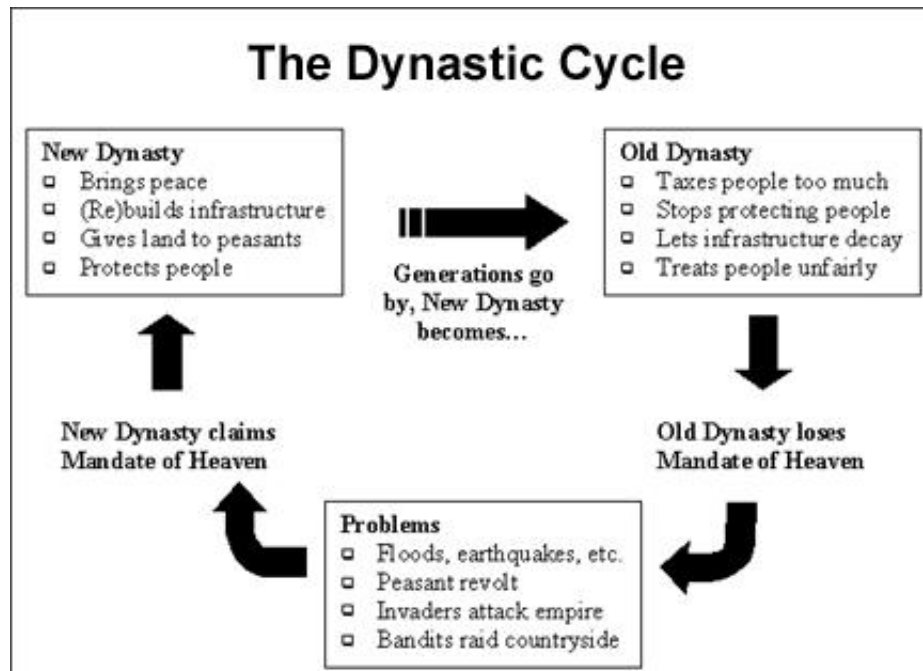
The Crusade and anti-terrorism War



After the attach of 9/11, the USA president claim a “Crusade” against terrorists, many scholar

Chinese Dynastic cycle

During the long Chinese history, there were cycles of new dynasty replacing the old one, and



Individual experiences of unawareness of the Infant period

As people tend to forget their experiences of the infant period (Harlene, 2004), which is similar

Conclusions:

There are many evidences from human history and individual development history that are re

References

Bruno S. Frey. "War on Terrorism" and more democratic alternatives. War http://www.tampere.fi/publications/vol2_frey.pdf

Wiki. Crusades. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades>

Harlene Hayne (2004). Infant memory development: implications for childhood amnesia. Dev 73.

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Re: Evidences of historical amnesia  

by Sherri Patterson - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 6:14 PM



Your post is very confusing to me.. I do not understand how the 9/11 and crusaders are anything alike. Crusaders were out looking for biblical items and killed all who were not Christian believers. Are you saying that our country sent our military personnel out on endless mission looking for make believe items and they committed mass genocide on there mission. How are they alike? And what does infant amnesia have to do with historical amnesia they are two different things?

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Historical Amnesia Problems and Concens



by Daniel Halverson - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 10:14 PM

Following the short video and reading the articles, I strongly believe that one main concern for historical amnesia is the general people do not know the truth behind a country's past and that could influence how one may feel or think towards a country. Another issue that comes from this amnesia could be false information on how historical events actually took place.

Historical amnesia in America happens a lot when learning the history of blacks and slavery before and even after the Civil War. Being African American, it surprises me the amount of people of multiple races that do not know what slaves and blacks had to experience during those times. US history classes in America do not show to the severe extent of how they were treated during those times. Historical amnesia is a great way to keep the population unaware of how people were truly treated along with giving the people who don't want to admit what happened an excuse to keep pretending it never took place.

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False Identity



by Ren Rasmussen - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 10:40 PM

For me this is in the same topic of demonizing the enemy. When seeing this hidden holocaust it does target hate towards the Japanese. Not just of that time frame but even to this day. I wouldn't want to be associated to this war crime so I would deny it if I was them. Its easy for the victims and others who saw this happen to always say don't forget histories greatest evils but when the topic comes up it brings hatred to Japan. The closest example to this in the U.S. is slavery. When learning about it or if it comes up the best of friends can start to dislike each other. I agree about remember the past but don't pin hate on them today for it because I am almost sure they are as much disgusted about it as the majority of people are today.

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