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by Joe Escobar - Sunday, September 23, 2012, 11:04 PM

To make your "post", click the reply link in this, MY post, and copy and paste your response into the appropriate fields (remembering to put the name of the author of the quote in the subject line).

To reply to another student, click the reply link located inside their specific post.

Sum of ratings: -

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**Friedrich Nietzsche**

by Tanaya Fonseca - Monday, September 24, 2012, 11:11 AM

"Every past is worth condemning." Friedrich Nietzsche

I love Nietzsche, and I have read the story from which this quote is from. Nietzsche presents three ways of looking at history, monumental, antiquarian, and critical. This quote goes along with the critical way of looking at the past. Nietzsche, in uncomplicated terms, says that in order to move on from the past you must condemn what is worth condemning and move on. You cannot move forward if you are allowing your past to keep you stagnant. I tend to always opt for introspection and self-awareness, it is better to be critical than too forgiving. I am a very objective person, so much so, that when looking at certain issues in my past, I tend to ignore emotional or personal ties. In some instances it is beneficial to take personal feelings into account, but more often than not we hold ourselves back by being too subjective. Nietzsche's quote calls to attention that no matter what ties you have to the past, every past has its flaws and all flaws should be acknowledged. It's the only way real change can happen.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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**Re: Friedrich Nietzsche**

by Joe Escobar - Monday, September 24, 2012, 12:39 PM

Tanaya,

Nice start to the term. You are my first student to post (congratulations on that) and the analytical nature of your comments leads me to believe you will not only enjoy, but do well in this class. Recall my audio orientation, especially the part where I reviewed some student evaluations of the course... specifically, the student who was caught up so emotionally in the course that either they couldn't get past it OR they accused me of being insensitive to the nature of the subject matter. I'm guessing I won't be getting feedback like that from you. 😊 Welcome to the class.

Sum of ratings: -

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**Re: Friedrich Nietzsche**

by Evelyn Deutscher - Friday, September 28, 2012, 01:41 PM

Hi Friedrich,

I really liked your thoughts and your quote choice. I think this quote choice could either cause a debate or be hated by most people, because in general people want to be forgiven for things they did wrong in their past. Despite that think it can be useful to critical though there is a definite place for forgiveness, but I do think being critical of the past can be useful because if a culture/country/nation doesn't forgive an act they did in the past they wouldn't forget it therefore there is less of a chance to make the same mistake. To me this is very important because history is meant to teach us how to act in the present.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**William L. Burton**

by Breanna Ross - Monday, September 24, 2012, 01:20 PM

"If you do not like the past, change it." William L. Burton

I like the simplicity of this quote and how there is also a deeper meaning. I have heard of the phrase that history repeats itself so before it does, make changes that you are satisfied with

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: William L. Burton**

by Tanaya Fonseca - Monday, September 24, 2012, 05:10 PM

Hello Breanna,

I like the quote that you posted, to me though it means something different. The way I see Burton's quote is that not of changing current situations to make a past better, but to change past events to *look* better. For me it ties in with the quote "*History is written by the victors*", it indicates that if you are in a position to make the past look better, do so. It hints at dishonesty and not presenting fact when re-telling past mistakes. Of course I would love to think that it means change your present to make a better past, but the cynic in me crawls out and I'm always left to wonder.

What do you think it means, on that deeper level?

Sum of ratings:3 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: William L. Burton**

by Michelle Srstka - Monday, September 24, 2012, 10:37 PM

Hi Tanaya,

I thought of something else after re- reading this quote and seeing your post. I think it also applies to studying history- do you take everything you read as fact? This quote might cause you to think critically and consult as many sources as possible. So much of history is open to interpretation. There are facts- names, dates and places for example- and there is also the why- motivations and reasons. Why a person made a certain decision or what motivated a certain course of action can be open to interpretation, especially where there is not a wealth of primary source material. There are so many different things that can cause one person to interpret things differently than the next- culture, personal experiences, etc. Like you mentioned, there can also be a motivation to present things in a different light.

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by Tanaya Fonseca - Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 09:32 AM

Michelle,

It was quite interesting actually; I did research this quote and I am guessing that it is from the book "*Melting Pot Soldiers: The Union Ethnic Regiments (North's Civil War)*" by William. L. Burton. I have never read the book, and do not know if this is *the* William (though he is listed as a Professor of History at W. Illinois Uni.) That is why I like history- once I get into it, reading one line causes you to search a dozen topics over to really understand the context of a piece of history. 😊

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by Matthew Menigoz - Saturday, September 29, 2012, 03:49 PM

Agreed! Breanna,

I like this quote also because of its simple and easy words that mean something so much bigger. Willaims quote is very similar to the quote that i chose which was Livy's. They both have meaning to them about how the past can be changed as well as the future. We have to live with our pasts everyday, but if we dont want to relive them then they can be changed. Being able to look at the past and change what you are doing now and what you are going to do in the future is in return changing ur past because the new past will become the old.

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Livy

by Michelle Srstka - Monday, September 24, 2012, 09:05 PM

"The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind; for in history you have a record of the infinite variety of human experience plainly set out for all to see; and in that record you can find yourself and your country both examples and warnings; fine things to take as models, base things rotten through and through, to avoid."
Livy

I was immediately drawn to this quote because I have always been fascinated by history and believe in the importance of studying it. I have a degree in history from the University of Oregon, and this quote neatly sums up why I chose to study history when I was there. It also is the reason why I chose to take this class. I am not a student at Lane to study history again, but I needed a class to round out my schedule and this class appealed to me. My focus at UO was World War II and the Holocaust; the Vietnam War was something that was only touched on in lower level survey classes. When I saw this class listed I realized how little I know about such a controversial war. Considering its importance in American history, I feel like this entire quote could be applied to what can be learned from the Vietnam War. I am excited to be taking a history class again and am looking forward to the term!

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Polybius

by Dustin McCowen - Monday, September 24, 2012, 10:33 PM

"That historians should give their own country a break, I grant you; but not so as to state things contrary to fact. For there are plenty of mistakes made by writers out of ignorance, and which any man finds it difficult to avoid. But if we knowingly write what is false, whether for the sake of our country or our friends or just to be pleasant, what difference is there between us and hack writers? Readers should be very attentive to and critical of historians, and they in turn should be constantly on their guard."

I chose this quote because it reminds me of today's media, and how misconstrued opinions and political jargon tend to be taken as fact. There used to be a time when news anchors actually reported the news; today's media uses tactics for stronger ratings rather than truly reporting valid information. I think our generation has to be more proactive than ever to seek out the truth of what is really going on in the world around us.

I would be interested to read what true historians write as fact, and how that would compare to what the general public thinks they know to fact.

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G. W. F. Hegel

by Phillip Hubbard - Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 09:44 AM

"What experience and history teach is this-that people and governments never have learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it."

This is a great quote for modern times because it seems as though no matter who is in charge of our country they are simply doing it wrong. Our generation today feels entitled and discredits the work of men and women from our past. All politicians are crooks! Sure they are. History can teach us many things and it is important to accept the success and failure's of those who have come before us. Perhaps politicians and civilians should look back at our history to preserve our future.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: G. W. F. Hegel

by Timothy Haley - Friday, September 28, 2012, 09:44 AM



Hello Phillip,

I almost chose this quote for my first response. Perhaps I'm a little cynical from the current election, but it seems to me that the contemporary political conversation is lacking any rational and objective perspectives. Of course we can ask the question; "is any perspective objective?" Probably not, but we can at least attempt to be objective through rational analysis of past events. In my opinion, the current argument over "isms" is not rational and fails to even attempt to bring out historical context of the words we throw around. This predicament suggests the truth of Hegel's words. Especially after reading the first chapter of Herring. I've always wondered what the real reasons for U.S. involvement in Indochina were. This first chapter's analysis suggests the U.S. had an irrational preoccupation with "communism" and "capitalism", and disregarded the reality of peoples situations.

I think we do a disservice to those who came before us by reducing the debate to simple "isms" without a calm dialogue of the historical development of those "isms". Also, I feel that what needs to be preserved is the past, in order to create a future.

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Re: G. W. F. Hegel

by Kerry McCurdy - Saturday, September 29, 2012, 03:47 PM

Hi Phillip,

I really like the quote that you chose because it is so accurate and true. It does seem that no matter who is in charge of this country, that nothing ever really seems to change for the better. When I was younger I felt that people my age felt that sense of entitlement too, but now when I see how things are going, the sense of entitlement seems to have increased ten-fold. Maybe it's just because I'm older now, but I see so many things that need to be changed if we are to live in a country that really flourishes. I think that most if not all of our politicians today are dishonest and greedy and only seem to care about what will serve them the best. They know what needs to change, but they don't want to lose their power over the people so they just keep repeating the same mistakes that have already been made for many, many generations. It's really sad that the leaders of this country can't put their people first for a change. We all need to really read about the issues at hand before we just elect people into office in this country. I hope sometime in the near future that this country will be what it once was.

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Re: G. W. F. Hegel

by Timothy Haley - Saturday, September 29, 2012, 06:26 PM

So, I have to ask, what did this country used to be? You write as if politicians were once noble and always did the good and right and prosperous thing. You show a certain romanticism about the past. I agree that we tend to repeat many of the same mistakes over and over again. However, I don't understand how that means that we have to return to what "this country. . .once was." I also ask what you mean by "entitled"? Are we supposed to reject advancements made by our ancestors simply because we didn't personally achieve them? I do feel entitled to the gains fought for by previous generations, such as a forty hour work-week. When I pay vehicle registration and gas taxes I feel entitled to pot-hole free roads and bridges, and public transportation when my truck breaks down. When my income-tax dollars pay pharmaceutical subsidies, I feel entitled to affordable health-care.

In my opinion, when we condemn the present in the name of some mythical past, we prove Hegel's words to be true.

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Re: G. W. F. Hegel

by Michael Sitterley - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 03:40 PM

The problems we are seeing in the government and world are nothing new. The people in charge seem to keep regurgitating the same issues time and time again, only different names and places. All of the problems we are seeing seem to be the worst ever but this is just because of the oversaturation of our news media outlets. I do agree that our leaders need to do a better job of looking to the past to help guide the future.

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by Matthew Stoffel - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 07:52 PM

Hello Phillip,

I really enjoyed the quote you chose and I agree with most of your thoughts on the subject. I do feel that people and government have learned from the past but in most cases they have simply become too complacent to do anything about it. The government knows what is broken, but time and time again they fail to do anything about it. Politicians are more concerned about being elected than they are about solving problems. Politicians are not the only ones to blame, the people themselves are also quite culpable. It is easy to condemn a politician for trying to by an election, but what do we say about a person who is equally willing to sell his or her vote to the highest bidder. We just keep putting these people in office and then complain how nothing gets done. It is not enough just to learn from history, we must possess the ability to use this knowledge for the betterment of society. Thanks for the post and I look forward to hearing more of your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Matt

Sum of ratings:3 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**R. G. Collingwood**

by Stephen Fowler - Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 10:00 AM

"history is for human self-knowledge. Knowing yourself means knowing, first, what it is to be a person; secondly, knowing what it is to be the kind of person you are; and thirdly, knowing what it is to be the person you are and nobody else is. Knowing yourself means knowing what you can do; and sence nobody knows what they can do until they try, the only clue to what man can do is what man has done. The value of history, then, is that it teaches us what man has done and thus what man is." **R.G. Collingwood.**

There was a few quotes that caught my eye and I even had to battle to pick the one I did. All in all I chose this quote by R. G. Collingwood because it felt like the closest thing I myself would say. I often think thoughts about knowing myself and what it takes to know oneself and this quote just truck my like a string of spaghetti in a food fight! (I tend to use metaphors and similes a lot) See I am a musician and this kind of thinking is what inspires me to write my music. I think this quote does a great job in letting you know how to know yourself. To really find yourself you have to look back and see what you have done and overcame or what you havent overcome yet. Looking back at the past can show you why you're where you're at today and that can lead to where you're going to be in your future. Most people forget about what they've done or dont want to look back which is why so many people today are lost. Now i'm rambling. I picked this quote because of the insight. Its a great quote.....period.

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by Crystal Sharrow - Saturday, September 29, 2012, 11:53 PM

"... this quote just truck my like a string of spaghetti in a food fight!"

I'm not quite sure what your metaphore meant, I'm sure it was just a typo and I think you meant that the quote stuck to you. I also chose this quote and said some things similar to what you did. This quote has a lot of meaning and heart to it. Thank you for your input, I look forward to reading future posts from you.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: E. H. Carr**

by Evelyn Deutscher - Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 05:33 PM



"The function off the historian is neither to love the past nor to emancipate himself from the past, but to master and understand it as the key to the understanding of the present." E. H. Carr

I chose Carr's quote as my favorite out of our options because I believe that it best encompasses what history should be or how we should use history. I think history is important for everyone to learn because without history we would be more bound to commit the mistakes of our past then we already are. History is a tool for us to reflect, learn and use for the future. I also agree with Carr that an individual shouldn't separate themselves from our history/past. History for the population is what past deeds are for each person, they can't exist without each other since they make up who we are. I do have one disagreement with Carr, which is that a historian can't love the past. I think that historian should remain objective when studying the past, but a love for the past would fuel their desire to learn.

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Re: E. H. Carr  

by Stephen Fowler - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 11:17 AM

You picked a great quote Evelyn. This is the actual first quote that I was going to pick but chose a different path. You made some good points in your posting. Without history we would be ignorant to the facts of repeating. Indeed history is a tool, the mind can bring you many places but it can take you back vividly and show you what to or what not to do. To master and understand history is to master and understand yourself.

Great post

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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William L. Burton  

by Justin Wease - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 10:37 AM

"If you do not like the past, change it" -William L. Burton

I chose this particular quote because I feel that it reflects my basic understanding of history which is that human beings, in attempting to figure out and understand ourselves, come up with many ideas, both good and bad, that require a large amount of time to develop and grow. To understand how an idea that was at first intended to do good, but ended up doing very much bad, comes to fruition is one of the major goals involved in the education of history...I think. This quotation seems to say that if you do not like how certain ideas progressed over time, then you (we as human beings) must learn how to make better choices in order to ultimately grow and prosper.

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Re: William L. Burton  

by Trent Jones - Saturday, September 29, 2012, 10:37 PM

This is a great quote! Good points about how it describes human growth. The ideas of the past aren't always good, but the drive to change the past is what makes this quote so good. It wraps up so much of the human race's instincts to want to be a better people into seven short words.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cicero  

by Barbara Bolt - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 11:08 AM

The quote by Cicero speaks to me as an individual, mother, and daughter. The quote goes as follows, "History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity."

As a mother reality becomes immensely illuminated; I can see what my own mothers trials must have been like; therefore, my understanding has heightened, and this cause has deepened my appreciation for her.

Also, as I age my memory from childhood becomes clearer with the help from my two little girls. I can see both sides; my mothers and my daughter. I am undergoing trials of my own raising two children; however, I allow myself to remember what it was like to be their age, and to feel what they feel. I feel this has improved my parenting skills which gives me hope that history won't repeat itself with my two daughters.

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Edward Gibbon  

by Michael Sitterley - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 11:09 AM

"History . . . is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind." **Edward Gibbon**

I would like to think that as a culture we learn by our mistakes, but we also need to be able to learn from histories mistakes. History is full of bad ideas and the consequences and repercussions of those actions all seem to get documented in some form. As a culture can we look back at these misfortunes and possibly avoid them, or change the outcome. History seems to always repeat itself, and the same things keep repeating but just slightly different. One thing remains the same, future historians will still look back at us and examine our crimes, follies, and misfortunes.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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E.H. Carr  

by Sierra Lavoie - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 12:10 PM

"The function of the historian is neither to love the past nor to emancipate himself from the past, but to master and understand it as the key to the understanding of the present." **E. H. Carr**

This quote very eloquently describes how I feel about history. When we look into the past it gives us an opportunity to learn from the mistakes we have made and prevent the same mistakes in the future. History will always be here with us we cannot free ourselves of it because we are part of it. As a person we are made up of a past, present, and a future. I believe that history is made up of that to it all ties in to each other and there is no way to erase a part of the past without taking away from the present or future. We can always look back in our history and gain the knowledge we need for the future. History is the key to our questions about the present.

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HST 195  

by Richard Atwood - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 01:55 PM

History is more or less bunk..Henry ford, I worked for Ford for 20 years, Henry Ford was a very much a foreward thinking man.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Friedrich Nietzsche  

by William Clem - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 02:15 PM

"Every past is worth condemning." Friedrich Nietzsche

I picked this quote because its short and to the point and Nietzsche is awesome. The End

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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**Re: James Joyce**

by Kerry McCurdy - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 02:49 PM

"History" Stephen said "is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake." James Joyce

This quote is my favorite one because although it's said in a very simple way it is stated so accurately to me. The United States has had such a history of so many wars and conflicts and each one has made this country what it has become. I agree with James Joyce that all of these conflicts in our history are a nightmare that never seems to end. Time goes on but yet we still keep repeating the same things over and over again expecting a different outcome and hoping not to repeat what we have already tried. I feel as though nobody wants to come up with a plan so that we will not have to be involved in any more military conflicts. I don't think that the government cares about all of the lives that are lost just so that they can keep control of things like oil and maintain the level of super power that they want the United States to be known worldwide for.

Sorry I don't have any commas in here but my keyboard is broken and I can't get another one until financial aid pays out next week.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Kerry McCurdy**

by Breanna Ross - Friday, September 28, 2012, 06:57 PM

In my opinion, almost, not all but almost every conflict or war the United States has been in was not necessary to have. I like how you said "Time goes on but yet we still keep repeating the same things over and over again expecting a different outcome and hoping not to repeat what we have already tried." But sometimes trying new things can be terrifying, so it almost seems like we have become comfortable in the role that we're in. History is a nightmare from which everyone is trying to wake.

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by Mario Scalisi - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 10:06 PM

Hey Kerry,

Good choice of quote. I thought about writing on this one, but couldn't figure out how to pare it down. I like Joyce's work and remember this from Ulysses. In the book, when Stephen was talking about history, he was speaking about it on a few levels: among them the violence in Ireland's history, and also a bit of his own personal history. That's the part that I found interesting.

I'm an older student who was a bit reckless as a youth. Some stupid mistakes, some poor choices, eventually a record in the system. This history has a way of following a person for a long time. It's interesting how much more it comes up as we hold in this recession. Competition for jobs is a perfect example. With so many people in the job pool employers look at factors other than experience and knowledge. It's examples like this that make this quote ring with meaning to me.

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by Natasha Haynes - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 03:27 PM

"To each eye, perhaps, the outlines of a great civilization present a different picture.

In the wide ocean upon which we venture, the possible ways and directions are many; and the same studies which have served for my work might easily, in other hands, not only receive a wholly different treatment and application, but lead to essentially different conclusions." **Jacob Burckhardt**

I think that this quote has to be my favorite because Burckhardt romantically states the importance of being able to understand that everybody has their own opinions and can perceive the exact same event in complete different ways. That is why history is, and can be, a very tricky thing to deliver.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Karl Marx

by Timothy Haley - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 03:53 PM

"History does nothing, possesses no enormous wealth, fights no battles. It is rather man, the real, living man, who does everything, possesses, fights. It is not History, as if she were a person apart, who uses men as a means to work out her purposes, but history itself is nothing but the activity of men pursuing their purposes." Karl Marx

While Marx's writings are rarely poetic; he often has an interesting point. The study of history is the study of ourselves in a very broad sense. The study of the things that we humans have done -horrific, ecstatic, and everything in-between- is a form of honest self-reflection. Why is self-reflection important? On a personal level, without it, no learning or progression is possible. The same is true on the grander scale of civilization. We cannot minimize suffering, or even ensure our own survival on a long-term scale without understanding how civilization came to be what it is, and the direction it is heading. We must learn and understand the patterns that we've created. While the study of history will not bring a perfect understanding of these things, no understanding will come without it. Because, again, the study of history, is the study of people and their behavior.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Livy

by Matthew Menigoz - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 04:11 PM

"The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind; for in history you have a record of the infinite variety of human experience plainly set out for all to see; and in that record you can find yourself and your country both examples and warnings; fine things to take as models, base things rotten through and through, to avoid."
Livy

I believe this quote is very heart-felt and honest when it comes to history as a whole. When you look at history you can see things that were done totally wrong therefor we can use things like that to look back on and not follow in those footsteps. We can stay away from things that have gotten us to bad places. We can create a better future and create a better present from looking at our history and working off things that did and didnt work. History is around us and always involved with what we do and a better understanding of history is a better understanding of life.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Livy

by Sierra Lavoie - Friday, September 28, 2012, 11:11 AM

Mathew,

I agree with you and this quote completely. History is so important because we can look back on the mistakes we made and choose to go about things differently. When we can understand our past we will be able to better understand our present. There is no way that we as indivuals will be able to experiece all the things that other people have lived through in the past. History allows us to experiece at least a little bit of what others have gone through.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Livy

by Timothy Haley - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 02:49 PM

I agree with your sentiment Mathew. Of course I don't know exactly what Livy meant by "a sick mind" but what I take from it, is that the present circumstances of our society can be very confusing. With all the rhetoric flying around masking special interests of the powerful, it can be difficult to determine how we should best move forward. The whole process can be very confusing. Studying history can bring some clarity. There will always be disagreement about what really happened

and why, but hopefully that conversation at least brings context to the issues at hand, which can then limit confusion. One thing I've learned is that what powerful people have said, and what they have done, often are very different things. The study of history can be enlightening.

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R. G. Collingwood

by Dylan Curran - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 06:25 PM

"History is for human self-knowledge. Knowing yourself means knowing, first, what it is to be a person; secondly, knowing what it is to be the kind of person you are; and thirdly, knowing what it is to be the person you are and nobody else is. Knowing yourself means knowing what you can do; and since nobody knows what they can do until they try, the only clue to what man can do is what man has done. The value of history, then, is that it teaches us what man has done and thus what man is." R. G. Collingwood

This is a quote about self-knowledge. Why is that important? Learning about oneself is an attempt to answer those big questions: "Who am I, how did I get here, and just what am I supposed to do now that I'm here?" Loneliness and identity crises are just side effects of being a person. Most people spend their lives trying to cure these symptoms by looking for anything by which to define themselves. That, and trying to find themselves in other people. That's the human experience.

What Collingwood is saying that we don't have to limit the search for self-knowledge to our own experience; we have the whole of human history to examine for advice and cautionary tales. We study the lives of others to learn about why we behave the way we do and how to go on behaving. In short, we learn about what it is to be human, what kind of human we are, and how other humans are not like us.

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Re: R. G. Collingwood

by Emerald Jones - Friday, September 28, 2012, 12:06 AM

I agree that self-knowledge is vital to the human experience. I like the idea that we have a wealth of experiences that come from so many different perspectives. It is how we can see the unlimited number of ways that we can succeed, fail, be peaceful and go to war. And of course there are so many other less extreme experiences that we can witness, be told about and tell others about. I think your response to this quote was very well written.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Friedrich Nietzsche

by Emerald Jones - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 06:48 PM

"Every past is worth condemning." I chose this quote mostly due to its simplicity. To me this quote means that no matter how good a person, a people or a nation may think they are, that there may always be someone or somehow to look down upon it or to say that it should have or could have been done differently. It is easy to say based on what I know now that this or that person or decision was obviously bad. I also believe it is a good way to say that no matter how good of an idea or decision something seems at the time there will always be second guessing involved by others down the line. We judge the past based on the present and what we see for the future. The past may feel and seem contemptible because of the way we judge it. And perhaps that is good, for if we are not afraid to find fault in the past then we are not afraid to find fault with ourselves. And that is hopefully a huge step in making the past something we can look back on with pride.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Friedrich Nietzsche

by Dylan Curran - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 07:03 PM

I think the idea that every decision is open to second-guessing or criticism will be particularly relevant in the study of Vietnam, an unpopular war with questionable motives. This quote made me think of the other one by Edward Gibbons: "History . . . is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind."

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Friedrich Nietzsche**

by Jacob Pusey - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 09:48 PM

I think this is a fabulous quote and you did a great job interpreting it as well. There really are two sides to every story and history is ceratinly no exception. While right and wrong may seem clear to some, it may be very different for others especially societies that existed before our time. I also believe this quote is very fitting for the theme of this class. Because we are studying a war that still has living people who were affected by the fighting and the politics surrounding the war, will it be easier or harder to get an unbiased and rational perspective on a conflict that had such profound affect on so many different groups of people?

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by Andrea Porter - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 09:30 PM

My favorite quote was from Edward Gibbon " History...is indeed little more than the register of the crimes,follies, and misfortune of mankind".

I like this quote because history in my opinion is not just about negative or bad things.History is made up of past experiences and incidences that make the world go around. There are many monumental things in history that made our country the land of the free. History isnt just about war and negative things but sacrifices and dedication ade to make society better.

Andrea Porter

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by Mario Scalisi - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 10:30 PM

I like where you went with this one, Andrea. I too believe that history isn't about good or bad. It's about ex[periences. These experiences make the person, or nation (etc.) who they are today. It defines them. As one of my grandparents always use to say, these experiences build character and are learning tools.

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by Kalyn Simpson - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 09:33 PM

""History', Stephen said,' is a nightmare from which i am trying to awake.""

This quote describes most of mankind's history. War and violence plague thousands of pages of history books. There are many lessons to learn from war, but I, having seen death and poverty firsthand, have a soldiers perspective on war. History is made through the manifestation of great works and ideas of men and women. Those great works show through in good and evil. The medical, agricultural, and technological fields have taken great leaps and made history. But even greater is the loss of life and suffering in wartime. The soldier is constantly trying to awake from these nightmares.

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by Timothy Haley - Saturday, September 29, 2012, 12:20 PM

I too find this to be an interesting thought. I can see how your experiences as a soldier bring you in line with this perspective. We should be mindful of who we are, and were. Both the horrors, and the great achievements of those who came before haunt us, as they should. We have much to avoid, and much to live up to. However, I don't think that we need to awake from

the nightmare, but rather transform our behavior from nightmarish, to a better reality.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cicero  

by Mario Scalisi - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 10:04 PM

"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity."

This quote sums up the idea of history as I see it. If a history is written, or otherwise recorded, it is a witness to the passing of time; a record kept.

History tells me about where I am because it allows me to see how I got here. By reminding me what has come before, it can help guide me towards outcome I'd like to see or achieve.

Finally, history *brings us tidings in antiquity* in the memories that I acquire over a lifetime of experiences.

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Re: Cicero  

by Mario Scalisi - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 10:25 PM

So, I'm reading peoples quotes and replies enjoying where people went with some of them, and I came across mine again and started thinking about it more.

I recently found a box of photographs that belonged to my grandfather who passed a few years back. It got me thinking how it was a kind of "*tidings in antiquity*". These were pictures of him as a young man at war time, pictures of him as a boy on a farm, and pictures of family a generation earlier than him. It made me wonder what the people in the picture were thinking. What was going on in their lives that day that would give shape to the expressions on their faces or in their eyes in the photos.

Then I started thinking more about how history guides. I know I use to read a lot of history books and also biographies and autobiographies. I'd look to what was successful for people, organizations, or whatever I was reading about and try to emulate or work aspects into my own life while at the same time trying to avoid or eliminate behaviors or thinking that has shown to be unproductive or damaging.

I use to point out behaviors and such in my daughter's peers and would make predictions telling her to watch and see how they end up at graduation time. She was amazed at how accurately my predictions were, even years in advance. She asked how I knew all that and I told her I'd seen it before. History was indeed illuminating reality for her.

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G. M. Trevelyan  

by Trent Jones - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 10:34 PM

"Since history has no properly scientific value, its only purpose is educative. And if historians neglect to educate the public, if they fail to interest it intelligently in the past, then all their historical learning is valueless except in so far as it educates themselves." G. M. Trevelyan.

This quote stood out to me because so often people inaccurately quote or disregard history in order to make a point. Since the vast majority of people are so uneducated about history in general, whatever claim was made is simply accepted by most. And that is no good at all! Thus it is important for those who devote their lives to trying figure out how the past really went down to also inform others about what they have learned so that we are not an ignorant community making the same mistakes time and time again.

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Sum of ratings:3 (1) **Re: G. M. Trevelyan**

by Dustin McCowen - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 10:10 PM

I like this quote too, I think that there is a lot to be learned from our past. I agree with you that people tend to believe what they hear, even if it is outlandish and untrue. I am glad that there are historians around that are interested in recording the truth and facts in an unbiased way to educate the present and future generations.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

by Jacob Pusey - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 11:16 PM

"There is properly no history; only biography."

If history is only written by winners then it is hard to divulge a reasonable account of what actually took place. The goal of any historian is to accurately recount the happenings of a past event. If you forget about wars and conquests, history itself is made on a daily basis. However, nobody seems to care about everyday occurrences. We study the history of famous and successful people because they changed the world. For better or worse, and they are the ones who told the tales to the ones who wrote the biography's. While this is not an exact science, it is the only tool we have to interpret what has happened in either our past or some distant world that we desperately hope to understand. History is a biography. Only because the people who did not write, it could not.

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by Natasha Haynes - Friday, September 28, 2012, 09:40 AM

I completely agree with you when it comes to the importance of recording history, and all of it from all points of view, but I do not think that this is what Ralph Emerson was trying to say. It is so important for the historian to record history as accurately as he or she possibly can, but also being aware that they do hold an opinion in the matter whether they want to admit it or not. Every historian is accustomed to a certain culture, and whether recording from an inside or outside perspective, the material gathered will always carry some kind of an opinion based on the historian's background and culture. Therefore making any history recorded, not proper, and more dramatically stated, a biography.

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by Matthew Stoffel - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 11:18 PM

"The function off the historian is neither to love the past nor to emancipate himself from the past, but to master and understand it as the key to the understanding of the present."

This quote by E. H. Carr is my favorite because it best expresses my own thoughts in regards to the study of history. I believe that our past is a treasure trove of knowledge and information. If we truly understand these treasures, then history can provide us with the insight necessary to deal with many of today's problems. Of course, this can only be accomplished if history is approached with an unbiased and objective perspective. We will never learn anything from our past if history is studied solely to fit a certain narrative or placate to a particular group. History can be a great advantage to us if it is used in a responsible manner. In closing, I am very interested in learning more about the Vietnam War and how it relates to the military conflicts of today.

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by Michael Newcomer - Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 11:56 PM

The past is useless. That explains why it is the past. I love this quote because it is so forgiving in nature. Every day of our lives we worry about the past and even though we know there is nothing we can do about it we still fret. I love this quote because it is a reminder that we should move on and make new history.

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by Dustin McCowen - Friday, September 28, 2012, 11:11 AM

I agree with you that worrying too much about the past can be a hindrance for us to move on, but unfortunately the past has a tendency to repeat it's self. I think we have to reflect and study the past to truly learn from our mistakes so they don't become part of our future.

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by Crystal Sharrow - Saturday, September 29, 2012, 07:16 PM

"History is for human self-knowledge. Knowing yourself means knowing, first, what it is to be a person; secondly, knowing what it is to be the kind of person you are; and thirdly, knowing what it is to be the person you are and nobody else is. Knowing yourself means knowing what you can do; and since nobody knows what they can do until they try, the only clue to what man can do is what man has done. The value of history, then, is that it teaches us what man has done and thus what man is."

While I found the other quotes to be very interesting, this one spoke to me. My favorite part is "Knowing yourself means knowing what you can do; and since nobody knows what they can do until they try, the only clue to what man can do is what man has done." History has taught me that there are very few things I cannot do and regardless what other people believe I am capable of doing great things.

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by Barbara Bolt - Sunday, September 30, 2012, 09:10 AM

I found this quote to be so fascinating; even though, I did not choose this quote; it really speaks to me. It is so true that a person has insufficient knowledge of what they can accomplish in life; however, with history there to educate us; we can then exceed expectations of ourselves and go on to be so much more than our original thoughts of what could be.

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