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by **Joe Escobar** - Monday, September 30, 2013, 11:21 AM

Be sure you follow all of the specific instructions above and post your responses by the Wednesday and Sunday deadlines. Click the reply link in this post to make your post.

Click the reply links within other students' posts to reply to them.

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G.W F. Hegal

by David Lahy - Monday, September 30, 2013, 3:39 PM

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

F. Hegel

I chose the above quote because in my opinion countries and governments seldom put in to practice what past or recent history has taught. I know most people are familiar with the saying, "Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it", but the thought processes and way of thinking about geopolitics and foreign policies revert back to past fallacies. In the Appy book, retired Marine Corps, General Bernard Trainor points out the similarities of how the American Revolution and the Vietnam War were fought. Basically, they were both wars of attrition fought in the same manner with the side wanting independence slowly wearing down the enemy until disenchantment and public support faltered. I believe one of the main lessons history has shown is that it is very hard to change a peoples, or governments point-of-view. It is only human nature to see new or unknown situations from ones own cultural perspective.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: G.W F. Hegal  

by Chels Staton - Monday, September 30, 2013, 6:34 PM

Hello David,

I chose to respond to you because I almost chose this quote. I agree that most people know the saying, "Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it", but it was taught to me by my parents as, "Those who do not acknowledge the lessons of history are doomed to repeat it." I know that's not the accurate phrase but it always made more sense to me especially now in reference to this class, and with our country preparing to possibly start yet another war. I also agree that most countries and governments do not practice what has already been learned. It seems to be the definition of insanity in our current world politics, that we keep repeating things expecting different results. I look forward to reading more from you this term.

Sincerely,

Chelsae Staton

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: G.W F. Hegal  

by Amanda Day - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 2:49 PM

I'm so glad that you brought up cultural perspective. This is SUCH an important element not only in present worldly matters but especially in historical issues. The historical documentation we read today is all immensely affected by those who wrote it and from which side they wrote it. We can almost guarantee that the Vietnamese preservation of the history of the war is something totally different than how we have it recorded and taught- and this is something we must always keep in mind while taking in new historical information.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: G.W F. Hegal  

by Rhonda Garcia Mondragon - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 8:46 PM

This is a very good point of view especially the learning from what history has already taught. If only people would learn from others past mistakes and actually pay attention when something similar appears in lifes path.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Polybius

by Chels Staton - Monday, September 30, 2013, 5:15 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 ground."-Polybius.

I chose this quote because it is familiar to me and one I often refer to in all aspects of my education, not just history. It makes sense to question everything we learn, if we don't then there is no psychological growth. It takes a questioning skeptic to advance the curve of education.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Polybius

by Nicole Reese - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 11:31 AM

I really enjoyed reading your analysis to this quote! I was taking a different approach to it when I first read this quote, but after reading what you had to say, your view makes a lot more sense than mine did haha. Also, I like how you ended your observation, because it's so true. We can never move forward if we don't question things and think of new ways to answer them!

- Nicole Reese

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Polybius

by David Lahy - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 7:31 AM

This was also one of the quotes I liked. It reminded me of a history show on HBO "Assume the Position", with Robert Wuhl. The first episode dealt with how history was essentially made up of popular culture and a lot of what is recorded in history is not complete. He ends the lesson with a quote..."When the legend becomes fact print the legend." Sometimes history is not always as factual as one might think.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Polybius

by Sarah Harris - Sunday, October 6, 2013, 6:33 PM

David,

That's interesting that you brought this point up, and even more interesting that you saw something on HBO about it. I remember some of what we were taught in US History in high school (it was a long time ago), but when I took a writing class during undergrad the book we read and used to write our papers was about some parts of history that the high school history books actually left out. The main points had to do with Columbus, but I'm interested to learn more about the Vietnam War that I imagine a lot of people haven't even heard about as well.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Polybius

by Ryan Bendel - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 2:07 PM

Reading history at times can be quite difficult, history is written by the victor, so usually it is very one sided and may or may not be true. If one country writes that another country was the aggressor and that's why they engaged in war, how are we to know the truth?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Polybius

by Chels Staton - Friday, October 4, 2013, 10:09 AM

I completely agree Ryan, I was always taught to doubt and question everything I was taught. That I needed to learn it and respect the perspectives but I should make my own conclusions. I remember very specifically my dad telling me that it wasn't those who forgot history that repeated it, it was those who didn't learn from history that would repeat it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cicero

by Barbara Lay - Monday, September 30, 2013, 6:07 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."
Cicero

To me, history is also part of the evolution process. it is the processes observed in the past that helps us in the future. That also helps to provide the guidance necessary for daily life as said in the quote above. Without history, we would still be trying to invent the wheel.

Barbara Lay

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cicero  

by Craig Nelson - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 5:29 PM

I chose this quote too. i like your point about evolution. The past definitely is a help in the future although at times i feel we dont refer to our past enough for direction. Thanks great insight

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cicero  

by Rex Sollars - Friday, October 4, 2013, 12:27 PM

Hi Barbara this is too true when people forget there past they are destined to repeat its mistakes. I personally would rather build off of my forfathers foundations than start from scratch with wood and hay and caves n such.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cicero  

by Tyler Kennedy - Saturday, October 5, 2013, 1:28 PM

i like this quote and your insight. this was my second choice when it came down to picking a quote. I enjoy your point about how if we didnt have history we would still be trying to invent the wheel.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: START HERE  

by Jacqueline Collins - Monday, September 30, 2013, 9:01 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."

Cicero

This quote speaks to me the most. It makes the most sense to me. The way I see history is a constant lesson and reminder of things done right and those done wrong. Our way of remembering things that were very dear to our hearts and those people that changed our lives forever. Our history has been recorded since before words were written and English was a language. Our ancestors thought it was of great importance to pass knowledge by teaching history to their young. Being an elder held and still holds a place of importance in all cultures because they hold the keys to our past and heritage. One can learn a great deal from sitting and listening to the ramblings of an elderly man or woman. You'd be surprised what they were able to do without Google or Facebook. History has taught us much about ourselves as a country and as a people united.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Cicero  

by Barbara Lay - Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 9:36 PM

I agree with you. this is the same quote I used. I love to listen to older people talk about the times they lived in. My mother grew up in the depression, and I greatly love to listen to her and her sisters talk about how hard times were back then. They were dirt poor and and at one time even lived in a tent. That is part of my family history, and those of us today don't know what it is to have to live like that. I myself remember not having google, or even a computer. If you needed to make a phone call while traveling, you stopped and had to use a pay phone somewhere. these will be some of the stories I will be telling my grandchildren some day.

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Re: START HERE  

by Rhonda Garcia Mondragon - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 1:22 PM

I too chose this quote because it seemed as if it explained exactly what I think history is all about. The stories that people tell is one of the reasons why I was so excited to get my CNA. I figured that most CNA's worked in long term facilities for the elderly. While I was doing my clinicals I was called an angel just for listening to the stories one lonely person wanted to tell me. She then told me that the employees were so busy they just did their work and never cared about the actual human that they were taking care of. In turn, by listening to the elderly people we too will be able to pass on a part of them even if they are not related

to us, all they want is to be heard.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: START HERE

by Erik Johnson - Saturday, October 5, 2013, 4:44 PM

I also found that this quote best describes my view of history. I like your comment about the importance of listening to our elders. Nobody seems to have time to listen because of all the gadgets that are buzzing and flashing in their faces. When I was a teenager I enjoyed listening to my grandfather tell stories about World War II and learned that it was less romantic than had been depicted on television.

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Re: START HERE

by Matthew Alsin - Sunday, October 6, 2013, 11:26 AM

You know I agree with most of what you're saying. As far as history being a tremendous teacher in life, however, the big things in history, the things written about in these books, I wonder how much I've learned from them. My own history, and those that have left fingerprints on my life, those histories have effected me greatly. Big histories though, countries, governments, wars, I ask myself what effect these have had on me and I'd have to say since I'm not a huge shot caller in the world the answer would have to be very little. Although it is interesting to see the different aspects of disfunction that can manifest in leaders and how it effects them, so I may be wrong, just looking at it incorrectly scale-wise. Perhaps if I thought of it more basic like greed, courage, reactionary forces, how these effect the world when someone with a degree of power has these qualities, maybe this can relate to the casual human in just.. a different scale.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Frederick Jackson Turner

by Matthew Schroeder - Monday, September 30, 2013, 10:13 PM

"Each age tries to form its own conception of the past. Each age writes the history of the past anew with reference to the conditions uppermost in its own time."

Frederick Jackson Turner

This quote to me has a lot of truth in it. I feel that the facts of how a certain event played out in history can remain the same throughout time but how their impact is

represented on the present and future can change and evolve with each person and generation. Take a presidential assassination for instance. In the days after an assassination people would probably have a hard time finding or believing any good could come from it. But in the months and years to follow policies will change and people might say that the assassination sparked a pivotal change in the protection of presidents since. An assassination of a president might actually end of saving many in the future. With each new challenge we are faced with we look to history for guidance on how to best proceed in our present and future.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Frederick Jackson Turner

by Sarah Harris - Sunday, October 6, 2013, 6:58 PM

I really like your point of view with this quote. With every new generation, past historical events could have a different impact than they did on the prior generation. Historical events that have shaped the way many think about different cultural groups, for instance and most recently 9/11 and the awful stereotypes that many immediately label Muslims with, may change in future generations.

My grandmother was born in 1906 and to hear her talk about a lot of the historical events that most have only learned about in books was quite fascinating. It really gives a different perspective. For instance, I was born after Title IX and grew up playing all the sports I possibly could (soccer, basketball, track, softball). I remember a conversation with my grandmother when I was in 8th grade about how as a very athletic young woman in her early years, the only sport she had the choice to play was tennis. By the time she passed away she had lived for just over a century, to hear first hand experiences about historical events like the Depression and both of the World Wars was quite the experience.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Jacob Burckhardt

by Andrew Tignor - Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 8:59 AM

"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 like this quote because i believe that it shows us the true way of history and how it is expressed through the different cultures of our community's. There are so many different people in the world and their out look on history is not always the same as

ours. This quote seems to express the feelings of all of us and our history and what it means to us in different ways.

Wikipedia stats that history is the study of the past, specifically how it relates to humans. It is an umbrella term that relates to past events as well as the discovery, collection, organization, and presentation of information about these events.

A little about me is that I am 22 years old I have a 5 year old son that just started school. I like to spend a lot of my time out doors and working in the woods must the time this time is spent when I can with my little one.

Andrew Tignor.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Jacob Burckhardt

by Kaedyn Drake - Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 1:19 PM

I really enjoyed the quote you chose, and the view you had on it. I agree completely that not every single person will see life the same as the next, and this has led to many great discoveries by many amazing people. Great job.

-Kaedyn

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Quote

by Kaedyn Drake - Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 10:44 AM

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

I chose this quote because I feel that it is not only very true, but also useful. Anyone that can read a book or watch a movie of the past can find things that are negative, and I'm sure that all of us can agree that we want our time and age to be one that flourishes and is positive. Well, the quote I chose can help us do just that. Everyday we make history and we decide, as a single person and a whole, whether it is positive or negative. We have a choice to change the past by doing positive things with our lives and helping those around us.

-Kaedyn

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Quote

by Andrew Tignor - Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 1:10 PM

I also looked at this quote and thought about using it because it carries so much meaning in so little words. To me this quote makes up the being of who we are and where we can go in life if we push for it and don't give up.

I really like the quote you chose and your outlook on it.

Thank you for sharing.

Andrew Tignor.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Quote



by Ryan Bendel - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 12:04 AM

When we look back throughout history its true that every generation thinks they are the best generation and that they are really gonna make their mark on not just society but the world, and unfortunately it seems as we examine history most of these generations have had a large impact on the world, these impacts however have not been for the good, like you said, we must strive each and everyday to change that

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Quote



by Tia Welch - Sunday, October 6, 2013, 4:23 PM

I love this quote! It hails back to every generation that has tried to make positive changes to their world, with blind optimism that they can make a change to giants like our government and big business. This quote makes me want to be a better person and take up a picket sign and embrace the optimism.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: START HERE



by Craig Nelson - Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 2:30 PM

What is History

"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."

Cicero

This is my favorite quote on this page because of its simplicity. History tells of what time past. It illuminates reality by bringing the horrors and transgressions of the past to the front as issues to be faced in the future. Memories are the life blood of history cause without it how would history be told. The past can always help the present and it shows are age. How true is this I know people who've never heard of things I grew up on.

Craig Nelson

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Karl Marx  

by Sarah Harris - Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 7:38 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

I like this quote because I feel like it describes history as more than just a bunch of facts but rather something that lives through us. History is more than just the stories of our ancestors, it's constantly being made by each one of us as we pursue our desires, passions, and even daily needs. It's a product of our actions and inactions. Rather than history purely driving us, we drive history by learning from it and deciding if we want to do something similar, go above and beyond (ex: athletic records or Guinness Book of World Records), or go a completely different direction than what has already happened. History lives through man's pursuit of their purposes.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Karl Marx  

by Matthew Schroeder - Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 10:27 PM

When reading this quote and your comments on it, it makes me really think what history is. Not, what is the definition of history but what is history in terms of thinking of life, the universe. The way this quote seems to describe history as a thing that revolves around humans. But if we were suddenly extinct history would continue. However it would just note that we are no longer around. There is a history of everything else in the universe. And as the world does not revolve around one person, history does not revolve around just humans.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Livy  

by Nicole Reese - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 12:51 AM

"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."

I chose this quote by Livy because I felt as though I could relate to it. History, to me, is the most unique subject in education, because unlike math and writing, history is purely based on reflection. There's nothing one can do to change it or fix it. There's no re-writing a happy ending or using a handy formula to solve a complicated matter. What's done has been done, it's in the past, and is now history. In learning history, the facts already exist and are presented to be analyzed and applied in which ever way one chooses. Through some of the history I have studied thus far, I have realized certain things about myself that I had otherwise never noticed and can explain certain things about myself and why I think the way I do. History is powerful stuff.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Livy  

by Ryan Bendel - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 2:17 PM

I agree with you, History is the best and most unique subject (and not just because I am a History major) although it can be different for each and every person you can trace where you have come from and how you got there.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Livy  

by Camren Bernico - Sunday, October 6, 2013, 5:34 PM

I also enjoy this quote and more how you described it to us all. I enjoy how you highlight the practical and even scientific uses of history. I also enjoy that this quote because it shows the importance of history as a precursor of the future not just in lessons for in what people do, enjoy and think, all progression is seen as being propelled by past and with it change in a never ending circle that is history. Nice quote and way of talking about it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



by Tyler Kennedy - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 12:02 PM

I like this quote because its saying that if you don't like the past, learn from it and don't repeat it. tTo some in may be a stretch to take it that way, but that's what I got from it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cicero  

by Elizabeth Bruno-Hibler - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 1:54 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." Cicero

This quote stood out to me because of its simplicity and it doesn't need much explanation. We can learn from the past and use it to make decisions, to guide us through life. Looking back at history and the past can jolt lost memories, like looking at old photos, and if keep your mind on its toes. Whether the past is good or bad plays a major part in peoples lives. Some cherish history and some wish to forget it ever happened. It shines light on the reality of past, present, and future, showing the good and evil in this world. History can show both sides of the story even if the eyes of the world can't see both sides.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cicero  

by Jonathan Rowlett - Saturday, October 5, 2013, 2:52 PM

I like that you emphasize the point that history is more than a tool; it is also a memory that can bring joy and encouragement. I have always thought that history should be used more frequently. People forget it too often, or dismiss it as unimportant. The past affects us all, good and bad. The good should always bring us joy, and the bad should teach us how to change, or adapt, so that we can be better, or so that we can teach others to be better. History can inspire us to greatness or to leave the world a better place for future generations.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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R. G. Collingwood  

by Rex Sollars - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 2:07 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 reminds me of what Jesus said about summing up the purpose of the Bible. Love the lord your God with all your heart soul and mind, and strength and the second one is as the first, love your neighbor as yourself. You cannot love others unless you love yourself. You cannot love yourself unless you know yourself.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Sigmund Freud  

by Morgan Magill - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 2:46 PM

"Only a good-for-nothing is not interested in his past." Sigmund Freud

This quote appeals to me because I absolutely agree with it, and I love how frankly it is stated. In my opinion, if somebody claims to have no interest in history, then they have no interest in the good of human kind. One must understand concepts of the past to understand how to try to prevent mistakes or work for something that could be better than what we have experienced in the past. Somebody who is uninterested in the past is of no value when it comes to politics. How can one have a valid, or valuable, or educated opinion of the way a government should function if they have no knowledge of the successes and failures of governments throughout history?

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Sigmund Freud

by Kristin Sledge - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 11:39 AM

I completely agree with you! I feel like you must look into your own history to even be able to make the claim that you know yourself. You and your choices determine who you are and what you will become. Upon looking at your past choices (be them good or bad) you can determine if the path you find yourself going down is one that you wish to continue on, or if you wish to find a way to re-invent yourself. The same goes for nations pasts. Without looking back at what worked and didn't work in their history how can they strive for a better nation or even a better world if they don't accept the bumps on the road that lead to the nation they are now. "Be the change you wish to see in the world" can only be applied after you know what you want to change.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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James Joyce

by Ryan Bendel - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 3:06 PM

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

This quote is taken from Joyce's classic novel *Ulysses*, and I found it very interesting. This quote is in my opinion a take on the quote "If you do not learn history you are doomed to repeat it" Throughout history, all history there has been violence, terrible acts of aggression, and cruelty towards humanity. No one country has been able to change its past and based on that fact they have had to endure horrible acts. So many people have this notion that History is always moving forward, however this isn't really the case. African Americans in early America were made slaves, but after the Civil war their nightmare continued, they endured many years of oppression and Jim Crowe laws, for over a hundred years after they their nightmare was supposedly over, it pressed on. The Vietnamese is another example, they didn't just have fifteen years of war with the Americans, their nightmare began many years earlier, with the French and the Chinese, and the Japanese. If we look back throughout History we can see that bad random things don't just happen, these issues are deeply rooted throughout History and most of the time the hardships don't just end, Historical nightmares rarely end, they continue on for decades and decades to come

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Livy

by Kirby Bullinger - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 3:31 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 choose this quote in particular because I believe that not only do we shape our own lives from past experiences, but we take things from family, friends and from the people/things we see every day. For the most part I think we can only benefit from history, knowledge is power (for the most part) and the more we can learn from what has happened all around us, from not only our own country but from the world all over, the better we can prepare ourselves for what is to come.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Livy  

by Sarah Harris - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 7:32 PM

This was my very close 2nd favorite quote for the reasons that you chose it as your favorite. History can only be benefited from, whether we are looking at the negative or the positive historical events of ourselves or those around us.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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E.H. Carr  

by Courtney Waterman - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 3:56 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 enjoy how this quote is upfront in telling you that running, and staying in the past aren't the best options. I don't think we could ever run fast enough anyway, and recreating the past often inhibits growth. Rather than doing one of those two things the quote gives you the third option of understanding and conquering the past. It lets you know that by doing that you can gain new insight to the present. It's an all-around positive message.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: E.H. Carr  

by Jonathan Rowlett - Saturday, October 5, 2013, 2:40 PM

I agree with your thoughts on Carr's quote. It seems that when the word history is spoken your audience automatically thinks of times, dates, maps, battles, etc. rather than seeing the true tool that it is, or can be. History is much more. It evokes passion to better ourselves that we should use to advise our future.

I also like how Carr points out the importance of the historian removing himself emotionally from history so as to accurately portray the events. This is hard to do, but is key to a complete understanding of historical events.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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R. G. Collingwood  

by Tracy Tunnell - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 4:05 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

I really liked this quote, because I feel it hits home for a lot of people. We are always asking ourselves, do I know me? What has man done to change history? What I have done to change history. Have I made it better for me and everyone around me or is it worse than before. Man has come a long way, but there are still many changes to be made. I honestly believe that history repeats it's self because man knows no other way to make changes when it comes to resolving things. We know what we can do, but seem to go back to the same patterns as always. Man is dumb and smart all at the same time. It is up to us as individuals to make changes for the better and learn from history and what not to do. Know yourself and push through limits to achieve great things.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: R. G. Collingwood  

by Josey Grant - Sunday, October 6, 2013, 10:04 AM

Hello Tracy. I chose R.G. Collingwood for my favorite quote. I really like how you said that "man is dumb and smart". Too often we don't take the obvious lessons away from history.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: R. G. Collingwood  

by Kirby Bullinger - Sunday, October 6, 2013, 5:10 PM

When reading this quote I get the feeling that I need to make my own history and learn from it. You need to make your own decisions and learn from them, of course though, the advice from others will always influence us. To be able to know what you can do you must try for yourself, if you fail then you know what you can do to better yourself next time.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cicero  

by Erik Johnson - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 5:21 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."

Cicero

I find that the quote from Cicero does a fine job of summing up my view of history. He plainly states the usefulness and value of understanding the past while avoiding drama in his explanation. Not too hot, not too cold, but just right. He highlights that history gives us a sense of time, adding clarity to our present reality and our past memories. Like Cicero, I believe that it can give guidance to help avoid the pitfalls of those who have gone before us and find the keys to their successes. There is much that we can learn from our ancestors if we take the time to listen.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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**Re: Cicero**

by Morgan Magill - Sunday, October 6, 2013, 11:51 AM

I absolutely agree with this quote, and how you analyzed it. I think that history has such value for all of these reasons that you pointed out, and more. I just can't understand people that don't feel the same way. While the past is the past, it is still worth looking into, and learning from. I love that history can also be like an interesting story. Sometimes it can be so interesting and colorful that it feels like fiction.

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

by Josey Grant - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 6:05 PM

I liked R.G. Collingwoods quote the best because I understand his way of thinking and how he explained it. Too many people out there, including, I am sure, some of my fellow classmates, have at one point in their lives looked at an obstacle in there path and believed it an unsolvable problem or an unclimbable mountain. However when they see or here of someone else completing the vary same task, they are then more incline to attempt it them selves thinking instead, "hey this can be done, and I can do it myself!" and not "I can't do it... no one can". So in a sense we are learning then from history, or rather... someones history as well as learning about our selves.It is a remarkable thing to spend time learning from others mistakes and succeesse. Its impossible to not learn about your self in the process.Sometimes you learn about a rare person that steps forward to make history and then leads by example.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Karl Marx**

by Jonathan Rowlett - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 6:16 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**

I chose this quote because it stood out as it seems to encompass what history is, or at least what I find to be true about "history" as an idea. Karl Marx highlights the reality of history and how humanity interacts with it. History is not the story creator but the story teller of mankind within time past. History is not God, nor Fate, but rather the blank tapestry upon which man paints his story of time.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Karl Marx

by Sarah Harris - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 7:17 PM

Hi Jonathan,

I just had to reply because I picked the same quote and I really like the way you explained why you liked it. Especially the end where you said that history is "rather the blank tapestry upon which man paints his story of time." Well said.



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: START HERE

by Enya McKinnon - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 7:03 PM

"The past is useless. That explains why it is past." **Wright Morris**

This is my favorite quotes because I feel that it is the best that describes our American history. The past is the past, there is nothing we can do to change it. All we can do is use it as a guide and make sure we do not follow down the same negative path as our forefathers.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Wright Morris

by Sarah Harris - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 7:19 PM

Hi Enya,

I really like your take on this quote. When I first read it in the list of quotes it came off as negative but you took it the other direction. History is unchangeable and rather something for us to learn from so as to not make the mistakes of those who have come before us.

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**Re: START HERE**

by Rhonda Garcia Mondragon - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 9:18 PM

If only others would take your analogy on this quote and put it to good use. I can think of endless things that could be changed that were done wrong in the past.

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by Tracy Tunnell - Friday, October 4, 2013, 7:22 AM

I also looked at this quote and thought it was a very useful one. We cannot change the past or what has happenEd is history. That is why it's called the past or classified as history. All we can do is look at how we handled things in the past and ask ourselves what can we do better this time? What would be the best outcome for everyone involved. This is something I use in everyday life. It's all about the present and how we can make the future better. I think many people could learn form this, especially politicians. What someone has done in the past is something we cannot change, we can only help them be better.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Livy**

by Kristin Sledge - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 8:50 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 picked this quote as my favorite because I feel the same way about history. It makes it impossible to only look at the terrible things a person or nation has done, while at the same time revealing that even nations which we have formed an incorrect or even biased opinion of can be just as terrible and hurt just as many people, or make as many bad calls as any other nation. It shows us who we can become if we don't listen to our intuition or watch for the warning signes that have come with such high consequences in history.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**G. W. F. Hegel**

by Amanda Day - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 9:26 PM

What experience and history teach is this-that people and governments never have

learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it." **G. W. F. Hegel**

This quote really hits the spot. When we look back on history it is far more common that we look back upon war, assassination, famine, and depression. Sitting here pondering, the list of tragic verses triumphant stories off the top of my head is an unbalanced one. Is it because man chooses to take note or even dwell on the tragic rather than the positive? Maybe we are a pessimistic species. Either way it is as clear as day that we fail to learn from our mistakes time after time.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: G. W. F. Hegel

by Ryan Bendel - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 11:59 PM

Its crazy to sit back and watch the things our government does, it seems to me that they keep doing the same things over and over again yet they expect different results, just like the saying goes if you do not learn from History you are doomed to repeat it

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: G. W. F. Hegel

by Daniel Duerfeldt - Friday, October 4, 2013, 8:18 PM

Amanda,

I was very close to choosing this quote. The more I learn about history, especially wars, it seems that they are fought over the same things (land, resources, political agendas, etc.).

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Friedrich Nietzsche

by Daniel Duerfeldt - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 10:14 PM

"Every past is worth condemning."

-Friedrich Nietzsche

I chose this quote by Friedrich Nietzsche because I found it the most thought provoking. To me, the simple phrase tells me that historical accounts that we read in history books are not absolute. History is often written to favor one viewpoint or another, to serve some social or political purpose, or suppressed entirely. Also, this

quote makes me think that just because we celebrate a part of our past that is glorified in history lessons, doesn't mean that there isn't a conflicting viewpoint that would condemn it. This last idea seems to be very fluid and change with time. For me, this quote is powerful and worthy of close consideration.

Dan Duerfeldt

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Re: Friedrich Nietzsche

by Courtney Waterman - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 9:32 PM

I didn't end up choosing this one as my favorite but I was close! You talking about how history lessons glorify parts of our past made me think of a German exchange student I had class with in high school. I can't remember what we were working on but she said "You should hear the way these stories are told in Europe." That was the first time I had ever even thought about history having more than one point of view. It also made me realize that facts are open to interpretation. Even though it's short, this quote has a ton of depth.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

by Karis Lindvall - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 10:19 PM

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

When my eyes landed on this quote while reading down the page, I was struck in a very profound way. In my short 20 years of life I have realized that there is an undeniable string which runs through history and unites us all in our own folly. While we may call entire groups of people halfway around the world names for their violent or intolerant ways, we ignore the proverbial beam sticking out of our own eye. In the end, we cannot deny that we have all at one time felt the same emotions which have gone to inspire actions in another which we deem wrong. We only believe we are so different from them because we refuse to acknowledge the invisible string which runs through us and connects us. Because we cannot recognize our similarities, we are destined to forever walk in the same rut through life. Awareness and consciousness is the key to escape, yet humanity still wanders aimlessly through the trenches.

This gradual inference first settled into my mind when I visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. two years ago. At the time, there was an exhibit in the basement on the types of propaganda used before and during the war in Nazi-occupied Germany to gain support for the impending genocide. Some of the most common forms of propaganda were posters and pamphlets containing

statements designed to instill a sense of injustice in the general population and plant the belief that their problems were all due to a “weaker” part of the population being a burden on society. In the Nazi's intended terms, the “burdens” were the Jewish people and also the aged and mentally retarded who relied on others to survive.

The tears that had pooled in my eyes began to fall down my face when I saw a glass encased, yellowing poster in the exhibit depicting the painfully contorted face of a mentally handicapped man with a German caption, “This man costs you 37 Deutsche Marks per day,” as an argument for the widespread extermination of those with mental retardations. At that point, I realized that all of this horror began with people attaching themselves to the belief that another human being is somehow lesser than them, even less worthy of life than them, and I recognized how this belief has shown up throughout my own upbringing. I remembered the Republican rallies my parents used to drag me to as a child, and how conservative talk-show hosts like Lars Larson and Rush Limbaugh would blame our economy's problems on the Mexican immigrants "taking our jobs." In high school I had witnessed other situations involving racism and name-calling directed towards the children of Hispanic farm workers as a result of these bullies being exposed to similar propaganda, either from their parents or other outside influences.

At that moment in the exhibit, I realized that the people responsible for the Holocaust had at one point harbored the same feelings basic feelings the people I had grown up with had felt in some way or another. I realized that at one point more than 70 years ago, people had given these feelings open reign and their ideas had snowballed into something which proved to be ultimately devastating. I realized that I am one of the few who have come close enough to recognize the headwaters to the river of death. In order to see evil for what it is, you have to be able to look into a mirror and not be afraid of what you may see staring back at you.

In short, there is no honest means of disagreeing with Hegel's quote. We often put such distance between ourselves and those who are “in the wrong” that time and again we fail to see our weaknesses and recognize the darkness before it has grown into a monster we can no longer separate from ourselves.

May we all one day climb out of the trenches. When we finally set foot on level ground, we may find that we have been fighting ourselves all along.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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G. W.F. Hegel  

by Tia Welch - Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 11:48 PM

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

I do not agree entirely with this quote, however, it describes how I feel about the Vietnam War and the wars following in a nut shell. I am looking forward to this class to help me better understand the war. I know that I will learn facts that will solidify my

opinion of our country's reasons for the war, but I would love information that makes me question it as well. So far, I have learned a lot from the readings for this week and am excited to continue.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: G. W.F. Hegel  

by David Lahy - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 7:46 AM

I too see a lot of similarities with the past and present wars and people will say, its easy to look back and see what went wrong or right. But there are always people who at the time point out the possible repercussions but are ignored or dismissed. Each generation seems to think they have the answers to future and either out arrogance or sumpreme confidence fall prey to past mistakes.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cicero  

by Rhonda Garcia Mondragon - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 11:50 AM

"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."

Cicero

I picked this quote because to me it represents my idea of what history is, and represents how we remember what events have occured. Yet not all people have the same point of view on the worlds past it is always interesting to see the different ways that different cultures recall historical events. I always try to think of both sides when it comes to any kind of war and I am finding the book Patriots to show the different views of what was going on not just one side of the story.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cicero  

by Ryan Bendel - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 2:13 PM

I really like this quote as well, especially in this class it is particularly fitting, The Vietnam War especially is a war that most people seem to be against, but if you were actually fighting in the war or a spouse of someone who was in the war you views may be different

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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**Re: Cicero**

by Sarah Harris - Friday, October 4, 2013, 11:38 AM

This is a great and extremely valid point, and one that I can absolutely relate to as well. As someone who has a family member in the military, it just makes me sad when I hear about people who are anti-war and therefore anti-supporting our military. This seems to have happened to the extreme with the Vietnam War. After the wars prior to the Vietnam War (WW1 and 2 and the Korean War), soldiers returned home with a "hero status". On the otherhand, those returning home from the Vietnam War were seen as such things as baby killers and drug addicts and as if having protesters at the airport when you're returning home from war wasn't bad enough, some were even attacked by the protesters with their signs. Not to mention how the media jumped on the band wagon with all of the anti-war hype.

I'm now getting off my soapbox, in short: I'm really glad to see you brought up the point that you did regarding people's points of view with the Vietnam War. That is one of the things that I am really interested in reading and learning more about, especially in the Appy book.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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**Re: START HERE**

by Camren Bernico - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 2:25 PM

Camren Bernico

HST 195

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

William L. Burton

This was one of the shorter and more simply said quotes of those presented to us. I find that personally I tend to carry on, filling a simple answer with much personal and emotional filler. So I enjoy and respect when I see something deep said simply.

This quote is not one I am new to reading, hearing or using. This is another reason why I chose this quote as it is one that has applied to my own life.

My personal life has been one that has endured many hardships both ones brought down upon me or those I love and as well as hardships I have caused others. I was a bad kid who did plenty of bad things and it took this quote to really and simply beat it into my thick skull that I can not stop living in my past and abusing myself over it. If I did not like who I was or what I did the only thing I could do was forgive myself and change into the person I wanted to be.

This quote then can stay relevant on a global level such as this course's venture into the history of the Vietnam War which has always been a very touchy subject and also helped start the Hippie counter culture movement which when combined with the war shaped the very future of this country and our lives today. However I feel many people now clearly see the errors of the war and the horrible things the government got away with by using the war as a means to avert the eyes of the people from other "shady" dealings.

So we as a country can largely agree to not wanting another Vietnam War, not wanting such civil unrest and revolutions and so on. Well then the quote I chose puts action to these ideas in a way we can all understand.

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

William L. Burton

Learning from the past, learning from a mistake, is all well and good but what is wisdom and knowledge if you never apply it? That is for theologians and the like but when it comes to real life and society, you must take action. Why this is so hard who knows!

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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

by Matthew Alsin - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 11:03 PM

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

I chose this quote because I can relate to that. Not so much that it's a nightmare but

that it's a dream. I find that the only real event happening is now, this moment, and yet, I am inextricably stuck in the past, reliving moments of difficulty that surface as a tension of some sort. So while I find the images we keep of the past, to be useful to some potential result, I also see how they can hold us back, keep us locked in our minds, and miss what's happening right now, and to miss what's happening right now - to me that is a nightmare. Also, some messed up stuff has happened in history.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: "'History,' Stephen said, 'is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake.'" - James Joyce

by Elizabeth Bruno-Hibler - Friday, October 4, 2013, 6:14 PM

Hi Matthew,

You are not alone when it comes to reliving moments in the past, especially the difficult ones. Memories can definitely hold someone back and keep them from moving on. It can destroy someone's life if they can't get a grip on the here and now. This quote sounds like it is referring to exactly that. He is stuck in some past history or memory that is definitely not pleasant.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: "'History,' Stephen said, 'is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake.'" - James Joyce

by Karis Lindvall - Sunday, October 6, 2013, 10:10 PM

In truth, history in it's simpler context is not so much the nightmare as it was the humans who have been in existence since the dawn of time. It is incredibly disparaging to learn of the horrendous war crimes and senseless deaths of millions throughout time. What is almost more disheartening is how easily we forget or how so many will never even learn of the tragedies even from the last century in Bosnia, Rwanda, Darfur, and Cambodia. Many of the people born after these conflicts will never learn about the depth of the atrocities committed in an age before their time. Few people in this class may even realize that almost 3 million Cambodians died in the few years following the end of the U.S.-Vietnam conflict, under the rule of Paul Pot.

In the end, the nightmare exists solely in the dark potential of mankind. We are Lord of the Flies in summation.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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