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**START HERE - What is History?**by **Joe Escobar** - Monday, April 1, 2013, 9:18 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.

NOTE: You will be able to see all other student posts AFTER the 30 minute period in which your post becomes "permanent" and you cannot change it anymore.

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**Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi**

by Eitan Gluz - Monday, April 1, 2013, 4:08 PM

"The historian does simply not come in to replenish the gaps of memory. He constantly challenges even those memories that have survived intact."

Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi

This quote is what I interpret my role as a historian (graduated with a BA in 2012) to be. One of the first lessons I was given

regarding the field of History is along the lines of "history is written by the victors"; while this idea can fundamentally be applied to many historical topics I feel it is fatally flawed by its limitations. As a result, I have since found it necessary to treat history and its writers as objectively as possible, with the aim of Yerushalmi. My goal as a historian is to thoughtfully and artfully digest historical reporting in order to form a more complete and rounded image of a given period or event.

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Re: Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi

by John Howland - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 2:56 PM

We must remember that history does not begin with the big events but with the small ones. As quoted by Hannah More "One drop of water helps to swell the ocean; a spark of fire helps to give light to the world. None are too small, too feeble, too poor to be of service. Think of this and act."

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Re: Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi

by Georgia Haskell - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 12:56 AM

I liked this quote from Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi; however, I liked the responses to it just as much. I especially liked the quote by Hannah More, thank you John Howland.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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**Jacob Burckhardt**

by Jennifer Larson - Monday, April 1, 2013, 8:46 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

This quote about history rang so true to me because everyone interprets history differently, from slightly disagreeing to small facts to large disagreements about whether or not something ever even happened (the holocaust comes to mind because there are those who still deny it happened). I think this is a particularly good quote for the beginning of this class because Vietnam was such a controversial war from my basic knowledge and I imagine that there are many different conclusions one can draw about the war through studying the history of the war. I'm sure the Vietnamese see a different history than the Americans do, and the Americans who lived during the war will have different conclusions than those who were born after.

History, while factual to a point, definitely is up the individual interpretation of the facts and the motivation behind historical events and so this quote seems to sum this up well.

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[Reply](#)**Re: Jacob Burckhardt**

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Monday, April 1, 2013, 9:55 PM

I liked your description of how you identified with this quote. I especially liked how you brought all the groups into the mix; Vietnamese, Americans who lived there, and then really how it's shaped who we are as the next generation.

Beki

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) |
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[Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Jacob Burckhardt** P Sby John Howland - Saturday, April 6, 2013,
1:32 PM

While I selected a different quote, I agree with your interpretation. As quoted by Dan Brown "History is always written by the winners. When two cultures clash, the loser is obliterated, and the winner writes the history books-books which glorify their own cause and disparage the conquered foe. As Napoleon once said, 'What is history, but a fable agreed upon?'"

Being part Native American I have read accounts claiming that my ancestors were nothing but savages. In truth we bathed regularly,(The European immigrants of that time had VERY poor standards of hygiene) lived in houses (our people didn't live in tipis, and actually only a handful of the 500 + tribes did) and taught the settlers how to fish and farm, make medicine from native plants and generally survive. The Europeans at this point were still burning people at the stake and publicly mutilating and executing criminals. So who were the real "savages"?

We also had equality for women, and a strong sense of individual rights and freedoms which inspired the very creation of America itself. The Iroquois system of government was the blueprint of the American Constitution.

So coming up to the Vietnam "War", we see the same propaganda at work. Hopefully we will be able to separate the truth from the propaganda. Although I try to avoid talking about my tour, as a US Naval Corpman, in Vietnam I will try to point out what I believe to be mis-information.

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**E.H. Carr**

by Kyle Poirier - Monday, April 1, 2013, 10:46 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."

This is interesting to me because I feel like history is something that is very helpful to learn from. And by learning about it, it really can help you be better off in the present. I helps you understand what can be done, what is good to do, and what isnt good to do.

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**Re: E.H. Carr**

by Ryland Wharram - Friday, April 5, 2013, 10:46 AM

Hey Kyle,

This quote rings true for me too, the same lessons we learn to day are just repeats of lessons people learned in the past. Of course hindsight is 20/20 and I wonder what kind of world we would live in if we understood how our decisions we make in the present will be viewed in the future.

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**William L. Burton**

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Monday, April 1, 2013, 10:46 PM

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

I like this quote, because no matter what history you have, whether in this class, world history, or even family history. We are all capable of changing the things we don't like. Some of the changes maybe harder than others, but sometimes the change isn't around us, but more or less the change within

ourselves. But these changes help change who we are both as a country, and it also changes every individual who is apart of that country.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: William L. Burton

by steve Tacker - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 11:57 AM

I liked your explanation because I too believe by making yourself better you can make family and country better.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: William L. Burton

by Cameron Cole - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 9:53 PM

I really enjoyed reading your response to this quote. Your examples were very interesting and very follow-able. People all over the world complain about how the past was so bad, but there are still things happening today that happened in the past that could have been prevented. The best way to make circumstances better is to learn from the past. This method can involve the world, countries, and people as well. All are in control of their futures so they must do what benefits everyone, and to take everything in account before actions are made.

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Re: William L. Burton

by Jungmin Um - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 9:58 PM

I think that quote really makes sense. My favorite one was that "History is a night mare from which I am trying to awake " I think this

from which I am trying to answer. I think the quote and the one you chose are somewhat related because people would never want the nightmare to happen again so they will try hard to change it.

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Ralph Waldo Emerson

by David Hartness - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 12:09 AM

"There is properly no history; only biography."

This quote was simple and down to the point on what history is all about, which is perspective. There is nothing that records history other than those who recorded it, which would be interpretations of those who lived it. This makes it good to understand historical events from many perspectives as it is not always black and white.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Ralph Waldo Emerson

by Celese Mauser - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 11:11 PM

I agree with both the quote and your response. I think it is important to keep in mind the perspective of the person who is recording the historical event because there are many different views of the same event, depending on how they were each affected.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Ralph Waldo Emerson

by Michelle Coming - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 12:20 AM

"There is properly no history; only biography."

I found it very difficult to pick only one, I found quite

a few that I liked, however I fancied this one the most. History is all about human experiences, whether it be from one individual or a group. There can be many different histories (or in this case biographies) for a single event. It all depends on where you're standing.

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Re: Ralph Waldo Emerson

by Elizabeth Gambee - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 4:40 PM

I liked your interpretation of this quote, especially your point regarding the possibility of being many different histories/biographies for any particular event. Everyone experiencing the same event still does so from different perspectives and interpretations.

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Re: Ralph Waldo Emerson

by Michelle Coming - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 6:17 PM

I think that's why I like the Appy book so much. It doesn't make the Vietnamese or Americans out to be the "bad guy" just two bodies of people fighting over a difference of opinions. The quote reminded me of something a friend told me once. She said there's no such thing as truth because it's all just perspective. What's true to one may not be entirely true to another because they might have interpreted events differently. The whole notion of what is true is really just an agreement of individual perspective.

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**G. W. F. Hegel**

by Billy Crum - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 12:24 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."

To me this quote means that no matter how
many times we look back and study history,
it does no good to take any of that
knowledge if we are not going to use it to
avoid making the same mistakes. Yes, we
as humans say if we could go back in time,
we would change things, but in all reality we
would not because we know the outcome of
things now. If you changed a little part of
history how would it affect things later on?
We just need to use the past to help our
future.

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[Reply](#)**Re: G. W. F. Hegel**

by John Howland - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 2:31 PM

I like your outlook and I hope we can start to
use the past to better our future. We need to
admit to our failings in the past and take
responsibility for our mistakes.

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[Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: G. W. F. Hegel**by Kyle Poirier - Wednesday, April 3, 2013,
10:28 PM

Well put. if we just are smart about it and use
the past to make the future better off it would be
so helpful. i feel that history is one of the

greatest guides for the following generations on what to do and what not to do.

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Re: G. W. F. Hegel

by Hao Qiu - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 4:04 PM

I like your explaintion of how you identified with this quote, you clearly decribed the meaning of it. I totally agree that we should use the past to help our future, use the history to avoid making the same mistakes as we did before.

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2

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Re: G. W. F. Hegel

by Andrew Lavengood - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 9:33 PM

I actually share your view. I think that much of the purpose of history is so that we can learn from our mistakes and avoid them in the future. Unfortunately, we have a tendency to ignore the lessons of the past and repeat the same mistakes over and over again.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Frederick Jackson Turner

by steve Tacker - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 11:50 AM

"Each age tries to form it's own conception of the past. Each age writes the history of the past anew with reference to the conditions uppermost in it's own time." Frederick Jackson Turner

I liked this quote because each generation should learn from the past as well as influence the future.

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Reply**Re: Frederick Jackson Turner**by Jennifer Larson - Tuesday, April 2, 2013,
10:11 PM

Hi Steve,

I thought this was a very interesting quote too. I believe that we base our perceptions of the past on what our present is. For example, our grandparents writes their history of 1935 through their experiences of living in those moments, what is was like, but for myself, I write the history based on my current life and the way my life is lived. I compare it to my life instead of understanding how it was to actually live it. That was the meaning I got out of this quote.

Have a wonderful evening,

Jennifer

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Edit | Split |
Delete | Reply**G. W. F. Hegel**by Ryland Wharram - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 12:48
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."

I think this quote best emphasizes my thoughts on history and government, that those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it. History is a lesson of mistakes and accomplishments; by studying it, we can hope to progress. Too often the pressures of today push governments to rash decisions that, with hindsight, are shown to have been repeated in history. I would use the War in Iraq as a loose example when looked at through a perspective of what happened with the Vietnam War. While we "won" the war in Iraq, history will tell wether it will result in good or bad

whether it will result in good or bad.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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What is History? Polybius P S

by John Howland - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 1:33 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." **Polybius**

This quote is the only one that rings closer to my own belief of "What is History?" From the Bible to the latest contribution passed on to be historical facts, each is filled with inaccuracies and falsehoods. Napoleon once stated "History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon." if we just look at the past of the United States we see numerous times where this is so very true. In fact the history of the US is filled with these "lies", history states that the Natives were savages when in fact they were anything but. History talks of Paul Revere's ride, yet he never finished his ride and it was William Dawes who completed the ride. Or let's look at Custer, historically he was known as a hero, in truth he was nothing more than a cowardly

killer of women and children. Now I can point out falsehood after falsehood throughout the history of the US but we are in a class on the Vietnam "War" and I am hoping that we can separate the falsehoods from the facts.

John Howland

Vietnam(1973)

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Reply

**Re: What is History? Polybius**

by Billy Crum - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 10:38 PM

I totally understand what you are saying it seems that sometimes we learn things then later on we discover that what was at that time the facts that is no longer the case. It seems like history is always changing to. Yes, I understand that they have ways to translate the past with the new technology as where some other the past was just stories and we all know how they change each time it is told.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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**James Joyce**

by Cameron Cole - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 4:01 PM

"History," Stephen said, "is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake." I decided to choose this particular quote because it has humor consisted in it, along with having great significant value within it as well. History is full of events that the world is not proud of, many of those situations everyone would prefer that they never occurred in the first place. Examples being, world wars, genocide events, racial conflicts/protests, economic catastrophes, and even agricultural mistakes that history covers. The list

goes on and on about events that can be considered "nightmares" to some. History provides the world with ideas to maybe change or 'prevent' certain circumstances the world may face in the future in order to ensure that bad events can be avoided completely. History also can provide individuals with a sense of fear that history may repeat itself in the future, and if the world was capable of such evil then, it is very possible that past evils could re-surface. (Cameron Cole)

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**Livy**

by Maraya Maxson - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 4:37 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 found myself gravitating more towards this quote than any other for several reasons. The first reason being as true as I find the words I don't believe that in our modern world we are using the advice described above. Although we as people have the amazing useful tool of the past I feel as though in many, not all, cases we choose not to use it. I feel as though if we observed our past more closely when making decisions there may be plenty of instances in which things would have been done differently. History needs to be used rather than just taught. It seems pointless to have had all the monumental moments without growing from them as humanity as a whole.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Reply



Re: Livy

by Melissa Booth - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 9:44 PM

I also really like this quote. I did not choose it but I do really like it. I too agree that we should be using history more. I think we all would be able to grow more if we learned from the past, and used what we learned to make it better. I really like your response to it because I feel the same way.

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Re: Livy

by Elizabeth Gambee - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 4:47 PM

I loved your point saying that history needs to be used rather than simply taught. It doesn't

seem like there would be much purpose for learning it if it is never actually utilized.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: START HERE - What is History?

by Sean Lounsbury - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 8:11 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 picked this quote because it's the best one I could find. I don't think that we learn a whole lot from history whether that be world history or our own past history. The parts of history that people do learn from history are so small that history repeats only in a slightly different way.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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R.G. Collingwood

by Brendan MacDonald - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 8:47 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."

This quote really stood out and made sense to me. I think history in a lot of respects teaches the world what man has been able to accomplish or not

accomplish. And as a result of learning from history what has been done, it opens up a realm of things that man could do in the future. When learning about history, it gives one the sense of what was done in a certain situation that led to a certain outcome, and if that outcome was bad, what could have been done differently that might have led to a different and better outcome.

History, I think inspires people to want to be a part of making history and doing something worthy of becoming a part of history. Therefore this quote among all of the other ones stood out and supported this thought the most.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: R.G. Collingwood

by Ian MacDonald - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 1:00 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 agree with your interpretation of Collingwood's quote. It is important to know the events that have happened throughout history that have made this country what it is today. Knowing what man has done in the past and knowing the result that came out of that, I think, gives us a chance to consider what choices we have today when faced with similar situations. I didn't entirely agree with every part of Collingwood's quote such as the section where he says, *"The only clue to what man can do is what man has done."* Whether it's what he meant or not, this part of the quote makes it sound like he is trying to say that we as people are not capable of

knowing what our abilities are unless we learn and observe from others. I don't think that is entirely true. While learning from other people's mistakes or solutions can help us guide our own decisions or actions, I believe there is always a certain amount of knowledge and understanding that we can gain on our own.

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R. G. Collingwood



by Melissa Booth - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 8:54 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 chose this quote because I think that it is very interesting. It makes me think about the reasons I am who I am today. I know that the reason I act the way I do was because of how I was raised and brought up. Some of who I am though is learning about my past. When the quote talks about the value of history, I find it interesting, because if you look back at what we have done, it shows that we are capable of a lot of things.

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**Re: R. G. Collingwood**

by Brendan MacDonald - Friday, April 5, 2013, 1:10 PM

I agree with your analysis of R.G. Collingwood's quote. I think learning about the history of what we have been able to accomplish in the past injects a lot of inspiration into ones mind, and really makes you think about your own capabilities. Many people who have done great things in which have become a part of history have been inspired by others who have achieved great things before them. So this quote made a lot of sense to me as well.

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**E.H. Carr**

by Skyla Brocksmith - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 10:23 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.”

I chose Carr's quote as my favorite because it reminds me of how my mother speaks of ancestry. Being that my mother is a genealogist, I was raised with the idea that knowing where you come from can open your understanding of who you are. She has said many times that having knowledge of the past can help make sense of the present.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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**Re: E.H. Carr**

by David Hartness - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 11:10 AM

They often say history repeats itself, but I find it important to learn history as we can learn from the mistakes of the past and hopefully apply to the to a better future history.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Show parent](#) |[Edit](#) | [Split](#) |[Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**James Joyce- What is History?**

by Jon-wesley McLeod - Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 11:58 PM

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

Joyce

Studying history is an all encompassing passion to some people. Certain periods fascinate us for different reasons. Whether it's local history or from the farthest reaches of earth, comparing our contemporary lives with those from the past is something that we all do. We can let our minds wander as to how we would act living in another time, a different country, and a culture seemingly opposite of our own. I have always been drawn to the history of the 19th and 20th centuries and am constantly thinking about the wars that have been waged in the past one hundred years, the correlations between them, and the complexities they have brought still effecting the whole world today. The direct connections between WW1, WW2, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, and now adding Iraq and Afghanistan to the list, is intricate and I believe one of the most important eras in human history to explore and analyze. Only by evaluating our past, can we help shape the future.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#)[Split](#) | [Delete](#) |[Reply](#)**Re: START HERE - What is History?**

by Andrew Lavengood - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 10:57 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." G. W. F. Hegel

This quote encapsulates what I believe to be one of the most fundamentally important (and useful)

concepts of history. It also captures what I believe to

aspects of history. It also captures what I believe to be one of the most missed opportunities available to nations today. We can learn so much from the past and what history has to teach us, but humans (not just nations) have this fundamental problem with looking at what has happened in order to learn how to prevent it from happening again. We could see this with the similarities between the Revolutionary War and the Vietnam War. Had we looked at the past and seen how our own Revolutionary War turned out, we might have re-thought our position on the Vietnam War.

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Sigmund Freud quote

by Jacob Hutchins - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 12:44 PM

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

I like this quote the best of all those available in the pdf. I think it sums up pretty well how I feel about history. Not caring about history is, to my thinking, intellectually lazy.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: START HERE - What is History?

by Hao Qiu - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 12:49 PM

Quote:

"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

Comments.

History is the analysis and interpretation of the human past that guides us to study the change over time. It is an act of seeking the truth and explains that how people have changed. It is also the key to understand the past and the present. We can learn different cultures and different backgrounds from it. Through the study of history we can imagine and investigate how and why the society developed, and also what influences have affects the past. As Collingwood said, history is for human self-knowledge, which means we should investigate and identify ourselves by using the value of history. People should learn from history to know that what men have done before, and get insights to cope with the problems and chances of the future. History never lies. It made us what we are today. Thus, we should learn from the history and understand what should we do, and what kind of person do we want to be, that is the role of history.

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[Reply](#)**G.M. Trevelyan**  

by Georgia Haskell - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 1:02 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.

I chose this quote because I think it is vital that the younger generation learns about history. Teaching and learning from our history is important so we don't lose it and so that we can learn from it; in my opinion. It would be a shame to hold all that information and not educate anyone with it.

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**Sigmund Freud**

by Amanda Skinner - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 1:45 PM

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

I chose this quote as my favorite because I too feel this way. I never really understood how someone couldn't be at least a little bit interested in their past and the people that came before them. While I wouldn't really call them "good-for-nothings" I do understand where he is coming from. I've always been fascinated with the ways of people who lived long before us and especially the history of our own nation and so it's odd to me when others don't share that same fascination.

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**Re: Sigmund Freud**

by Elizabeth Gambee - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 4:45 PM

Good point. I tend to think along the same lines. I think that it is easy for a lot of people to become disinterested in their own history because they lose sight of how applicable it is

to their own lives. It can be easy to forget that we are here as a result of the history of many others.

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**Re: Sigmund Freud**

by Maraya Maxson - Saturday, April 6, 2013, 1:30 PM

i agree that the past plays a nessisary role in determaing the people and current status of everything around us, after all without it who knows where we would be. I can understand wanting to shield yourself from some of the negative stories of the past, however i think in doing that you inhibit your ability to learn from

being that you inhibit your ability to learn from the mistakes of the past and therefore (if you use the lessons) not repeat them.

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Re: Sigmund Freud

by Jacob Hutchins - Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10:04 PM

I really agree with you. To me it seems like a shame people miss out on history. Not only do I think it's intellectually lazy, but there is so much cool stuff to know. How can people not be curious about history?

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G. W. F. Hegel

by Athena Miller - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 3:22 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 this quote because I agree with it. Most individuals have a tendency to repeat the same mistakes they have done in the past. It also seems true in most cases in history for governments. It just seems that individuals and governments don't seem to learn or reflect on the mistakes that have been made and try to come up with solutions so the same mistakes aren't duplicated. Or in some cases, some are more comfortable going with a path already traveled and believe that they will have different results. This may be effective in the short-run but the end result may be the same as past individuals in the long-run. Hence the phrase "history repeats itself."

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[Reply](#)**James Joyce**

by Jungmin Um - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 3:43 PM

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

Among many different definitions about history, the one touched my mind was a quote from James Joyce. When I look back my own history, I can tell that I made so many mistakes that I would never make again. Also, some things are very embarrassing to do it again if I were asked to do it now. Those regrets, embarrassments, and negative things outweigh the good things that I have done because not only me, but everyone grow and learn as time goes by. In other words, what I thought as the best in the past will not going to be the best right now. In this way, James Joyce's quote was very memorable to me.

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**Re: James Joyce**

by Jon-wesley McLeod - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 7:06 PM

I also chose this quote because it felt personal. I enjoyed the way you interpreted the quote internally in the context of your own life as opposed to the external world. History works on both macro and micro levels and sometimes we concentrate on primarily one or the other when we should understand they coincide.

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**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

by Elizabeth Gambee - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 4:07 PM

"There is properly no history; only biography."

This quote appealed to me because I felt as though it was, in a sense, insinuating that history is more a collection of potentially biased or opinionated personal accounts rather than a record of 100% factual information. This made sense to me because everybody tends to interpret specific occurrences and events differently from one another. People perceive circumstances differently from one another, and because of this, it is understandable that the recording of historic events are reflective of the initial author or speaker's own account of a particular event. In my opinion, I think that this points out why it is important to get a wide variety of accounts of certain events deemed historical so that we can better understand what exactly occurred from a plethora of perspectives and viewpoints.

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Livy

 

by Nathaniel Hahn - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 6:18 PM

“The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind; for in history you have 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.”

While I found it tough to choose only one quote that I liked, or at least stood out, I kept going back to this particular quote by Livy. I like this quote because I feel it closely resembles my personal feelings on an interest in history. My father was a history major and always has been very knowledgeable in many fields of history; so history and the need to learn history was always emphasized while growing up. While I have inherited a want for learning history, it is not my passion, nor my field of study. But I have always recognized the importance in learning from our past, both good and bad; and that is what I feel Livy is saying in this quote. On an individual or on a national or even international basis; we can learn from our own or other's mistakes, as well as take

from what we have done well. From art to war, past to present, we can always learn and take something from it, and continue to grow as an individual or as a nation(s).

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Cicero 



by Patrick Haider - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 6:45 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 found a lot of meaning in this quote, as it can be related to the overall meaning of life philosophy. In our everyday lives it can be easy to take for granted the grand picture of the world, and our role in it. It can become easy to forget what came before us, and why what we do matters for the future. Cicero's quote illuminates the fact that we always have history to fall back on to anchor us to the world as a whole.

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Cicero 

by Amanda Robertson - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 7:00 PM

I think this exemplifies the meaning of History perfectly. History, while often is only assumed as times that have long since past, I'm taking this quote a bit more personally, by applying it to my personal life; my personal History. There are things that have happened in my History that have absolutely provided guidance, and helped to shape me into the person I am today. These experiences provide great memories, and help to

illuminate my reality when I relive those experiences.

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Friedrich Nietzsche

by Travis Jones - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 7:54 PM

"Every past is worth condemning." Friedrich Nietzsche

The reason that I chose this quote is that it exemplifies every nation that still exists in the world. There cannot be a single country that does not have some transgression in its past that it is not disappointed in. The slave trade for example nearly every nation has been involved in it at some point and during the time they engaged in it, it was the status quo at the time. Yet now in the modern age they condemn their pasts and the negative actions they had on other people and cultures around the globe.

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Re: Friedrich Nietzsche

by Patrick Haider - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 8:10 PM

I also agree with this quote. This is particularly apparent in the nations of the world. Many nations look to hold themselves high in a very nationalistic way as a great infallible country. In all cases there is something in that nations past to condemn.

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Re: Friedrich Nietzsche



by Travis Jones - Sunday, April 7, 2013,
10:07 PM

See I do know so much as if most of the actions should be condemned. The world's nations acts are for the most part (nazi's excluded and such of similar genocide) should not be condemned being the fact that at the time they were merely a status quo, and everyone was doing or had done something similar in nature. Slavery in the US was not seen as wrong until abolitionists came to political relevance. The point is that it is tough and in my opinion to hold a nation to the standards of today for acts committed yesterday when the "human rights" argument was so much different.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cicero

by Johanna Sughrue - Wednesday, April 3, 2013,
8:23 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 chose the Cicero quote because I love the overall message of the quote. I enjoy reading about it and am planning to pursue a degree in History and become a high school history teacher. My favorite part of the quote is where Cicero says "It illuminates reality, vitalizes memory". I firmly believe this of history. Through the study of history we learn about the past, we see what once was the reality of daily lives of the people who lived in the period that we study. If we relied strictly on oral history or the

memories of those who lived in those times relayed many years later we would lose the accuracy and unbiased facts of what actually occurred. I believe that the study of history is vital in making decisions

in our lives. Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

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Jacob Burckhardt

by Ian MacDonald - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 9:07 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 found this quote pretty interesting because basically what I believe he is trying to say is that history can be interpreted in different ways among different people. History is important because it is a record of the broad range of events and people that have come to make this country what it is today. As interpreters of those records, we each come to our own understanding of that history and what it means to us today.

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G.W.F. Hegel

by Celese Mauser - Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 11:49 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."

It seems as though humans have always been

oppressing and inflicting suffering upon each other. Our history is full of battles waged for religion, government, property, or natural resources to name a few. These wars have taken so many lives from us and yet we continue the same foreign policies that get us into the same bloodshed. Years later when we experience the blowback from these military campaigns, our government (the media) distorts our memory of what actually happened. This often leads to support for more bloodshed. The cycle continues.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: G.W.F. Hegel

by Athena Miller - Friday, April 5, 2013, 12:25 PM

I also chose this quote. I agree that the media and other sources such as a country's culture sometimes glorifies past times and wars and just leads to more bloodshed.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: G.W.F. Hegel

by Johanna Sughrue - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 9:26 PM

It would be nice if leaders learned from the past. Wars over religion are nothing new, if people would pay attention to history, learn

from it, and apply those lessons there wouldn't be so many wars.

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Re: G.W.F. Hegel

by Travis Jones - Sunday, April 7, 2013, 10:21 PM

I have to disagree greatly with your comments about how there would be far

fewer wars. Humans have an innate desire for conflict peace is not something that is practiced well by a species such as ours. If the religion aspect was out of the picture we would still find something to wage wars over. The US alone wages wars over the forms of government, not purely based on religion. That form of war is a relic from the past and is only limited not to radical sects.

Learning from your past does not necessarily mean you would have fewer wars. The same mistakes or transgressions may not be repeated, but new ones will be committed.

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Re: START HERE - What is History?

by Joyce Perkins - Thursday, April 4, 2013, 7:16 PM

My favorite quote is : "If you don't like the past change it!" I like this quote because I feel that unless we know about the past we cannot change it for the future. If we don't view the past to see our mistakes then we will continue to repeat those mistakes. It is integral that we learn from our mistakes so that we can have a better future. If we are too afraid to look at the past and analyze it, then we will always be too afraid to rise above it.

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Re: START HERE - What is History?

by Skyla Brocksmith - Friday, April 5, 2013, 3:15 PM

I like the points you made. If we choose not to look at our past, how are we to know what we need to change in order to have a better future. I see this quote much like someone saying they don't regret the mistakes they've made because it's made them into who they are today, but they choose to not make the same mistakes again.

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