

What is HISTORY?



MEANING

History comes from Istoria (Greek)

**Collection of information obtained as
result of scientific enquiry**

Herodotus is the Father of history

Selection of a topic

Collection of sources

Interpretation (Analysis) of the data &

Presentation in a scientific manner

AIM of HISTORY

To get truth

(what actually happened)

with evidences (sources)

Types of Sources

A) Literary Sources

a) Indigenous (native)

b) Foreign

B) Non-Literary Sources

4. DEFINITIONS :

a) History as Events

b) History as Records

c) History as Reflective Thought

History is an account

of the UNCHANGING PAST

--ARISTOTLE

History is a story of things

worthy of being remembered....

Only unique, significant

and remarkable happenings would figure in it.

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-- Thucydides

History, in the broadest sense, is every thing

that ever happened.

It is the past itself ;

whatever that may be.

–Henry Johnson

History is

any sequence of events

traced in their relations.

--Prof. Findlay

What men have done and said,

above all what they have thought

– that is history.

-- Prof . Maitland

History is essentially

a science of reasoning

- Seignbos

History is the unending dialogue

between the past and the present

– E. H. Carr

History is unfolding story

of Human Freedom

– Lord Acton

History is the record

of life of men in societies

in their geographical and

their physical environment

--A. L. Rowse

USES OF HISTORY

- helps to understand the human behaviour
- deals with the development of thought, ideas and civilization
- to know the collective experience of the past in all aspect
- explains the present in the light of the past by indicating the ideals and forces which are at work
- the intellectual and educative value

- A study of history and analysis of historical developments promote powers of reasoning and criticism
- Moral and ethical value of history
- History makes men wise - SIR FRANSIS BACON
- helps the government in administration
- leads to the appreciation as well as the realization of human dignity.

ABUSES OF HISTORY

- * Evidences are distorted
Superstition has contributed
(Myths & Puranas treated as history)
- * Interpretations are one- sided versions, biased view
subjective writings support of their contentions
(time capsule 1973)

Political & economic trends serve as powerful incentives(esp. to court historians & govt. historians)

Individual historians for their particular ends.
(omissions, deletions & additions)

Ideology colours the attitude of interested historians
(Communism, Nazism, Fundamentalism etc.,)

LIMITATIONS of History

- HISTORY is incomplete
- Not really authentic
- Administrators do not learn lesson from history
- History does not repeat itself

Questions Please

