

# INTRODUCTION OF HISTORY

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## INTRODUCTION

History is just "Man-history". The term history is derived from the Greek word "historian", which means information" or "an enquiry designed to elicit trust". Story is just a shortened form of the same word. History is what the historians see. Different historians role in different ways, no matter how objective he would like to be a historian can base his writings only on the material available to him at a particular time. He may accept or reject the evidence before him or give his own interpretation to events though he must have his facts right. Writing history is a hazardous occupation. The historian is liable to the charge that his writing is based on inconclusive evidence or that it loaded in favour of one or other party.

## DEFINITION OF HISTORY

Different scholars have defined history differently. There is no universally agreed definition. Following definitions indicate the meaning and scope of history.

1. **Ariel and Wild Durant** : "History is the transmission of our mental, moral, technical and aesthetic heritage as fully as possible to as many as possible, for the enlargement of man's understanding and "Control embellishment and enjoyment of life".
2. **Burkhart** : "History is the record of what one age finds worthy of note in another".

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3. **E. H. Carr** : "History is a continuous process of interaction between the historian and his facts, and unending dialogue between the present and the past",
  4. **Freeman** : "History is past politics".
  5. **Charles Fifth** : "History is the record of the life of societies of man, of the changes which those societies have gone through, of the ideas which have determined the action of those societies, and the material conditions which have helped or hindered their development.
  6. **Henry C. Lea** : "History is a serious attempt to ascertain the severest truth as to the past and set it forth without fear or favour".
  7. **Ibn Khildun (1379)** : "History is the record of human society, a world civilization, of the changes that take place in the nature of that society, such as savagery, sociality and group solidarity, of revolutions and uprisings by one set of people against another, with the resulting kingdoms and states, with their various ranks, of the different activities and occupations of men, whether for gaining their livelihood or in the various sciences and crafts, and in general of all transformations that society undergoes by its very nature."
  8. **Johnson** : "History, in its broadcast sense, is everything that ever happened".
  9. **Maitland** : "What men have done and said and, above all, what they have thought - that is History".
  10. **Marc Bloch** : "History is the science of men in time".
  11. **Michael** : "Sacrilege and the mocking of false goods are the historian's rust duty his indispensable instrument for reestablishing the truth".
  12. **Miller** : "The course of life is like the sea, men come and go, tides rise and fall, and that is all of history".
  13. **Mujeeb, M.** : "In a wider sense, history comprehends all knowledge, the urge which leads to philosophical speculation or scientific discovery being as much a part of human record as the creation of an empire. But in practice the scope of history is confined to political, events, social and economic life and culture".

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY OF HISTORY

1. **Objective Record or Happenings** : It is a study of the past happenings in the life of a social group, based on objective evidence as far as possible. Every precaution should be taken to base the, data on original sources and make them free from subjective interpretation. The happenings should not be placed before the readers without some indication of the amount of faith, which may be placed, on their authenticity.

2. **Multisided** : As all aspects of the life of a social groups are closely interrelated these happenings should cover aspects of the life of the social group and need not ordinarily give predominance to any one aspect of life (e.g. political aspect, which had so long dominated history).
3. **Relevant** : Only those happenings should be included in the study of history, which are relevant to the understanding of its present life. The present has evolved out of the past and the business of history is to study this evolution. An understanding of this principle should enable one to be acquainted with which of the past happenings are important for history and which are not.
4. **Not only narration but analysis** : The selected happenings should not merely be narrated; the causal relationships between them should be properly unearthed. The tracing of these relationships should lead to the development of general laws, which should be able to reveal the real nature of the happenings. Comparison and contrast with the casual relationships existing among similar happenings in other social groups may also be made to improve the reliability and validity of these laws.
5. **A scientific study and a faithful record of our past** : According to its modern concept, history is not confined to one period or country or nation. It starts from the appearance of man on this earth and deals with all places where man has gone and lived. It deals with all aspects of human life - political, social, economic, religious, literary, aesthetic and physical. It is a study of man's evolution on earth.
6. **A study of the present in the light of the past** : The present social life of man in different parts of the world, has evolved through centuries of human efforts in various directions. Modern history enables us to understand how society has come to its present form so that one may intelligently interpret. The matrix of social forces and movements, in the midst of, which we are living. It helps us to discover and explain how this adjustment has taken place in the past and how is it taking place today. It will, thus endeavour to give us not only a sense of national patriotism and an appreciation

of national heritage but also a clear sense of world unity, and world citizenship.

7. **Growth and development of human civilization :** History is not static. It is dynamic growth, development and evolution. "It traces the fascinating story of how man has developed through the ages, how man has studied to use and control his environment and how the present institutions have grown out of the past. Man's struggle with his environment—yesterday and today, man's use and abuse of his powers and resources, his development and the essential unity of human civilization are the main themes of history." Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru said "Man's growth from barbarism to civilization, is the main theme of history." Great religious and political leaders, philosophers, educators, explorers and scientists, born in different parts of the world, have contributed to the evolution and progress of modern civilization.