



**WELCOME!**

**It's history time!**

# IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY ( Uses and Abuses )

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# WHAT IS HISTORY?

- **History** is the study of the human past as it is described in the written documents left by human beings.
- The past, with **all** its decisions completed, its participants dead and its **history** told, is what the general public perceives as the immutable bedrock on which we historians and archaeologists stand.
- But it is we who interpret these facts. So history is as much about present as about past.

# WHY DO WE STUDY OUR “ PAST ” ?

- Curiosity to know about the past.
- To understand what happened in the past in order to know who we are?
- To preserve our knowledge about the past for the future generations, so that they also know who they are?
- To know what happened in the past, so that we don't make the same mistake again.

# HISTORY IS A RECORD OF THE PAST (MEMORIES)

- What do we know about memories?
- We know that as time goes on memories become clouded and vague.
- When this happens history is lost or distorted, and with the passing of time becomes a mystery.



# What is History about?

Who?

**Human beings:** we study people's lives

**HISTORY**

What?

**Evidence or Sources** that say something about the past

When?

**Past:** we study things that happened before us



- is the interpretative and imaginative study of *surviving records of the past*, either *written or unwritten*, in order to determine the meaning and scope of *human existence*.

In Greek - Istopia, Istorla, Historia

In German - Geschichte

In Sanskrit - puranam, Ithihasam

= Knowledge

= Event

= Narrating the facts as stories,

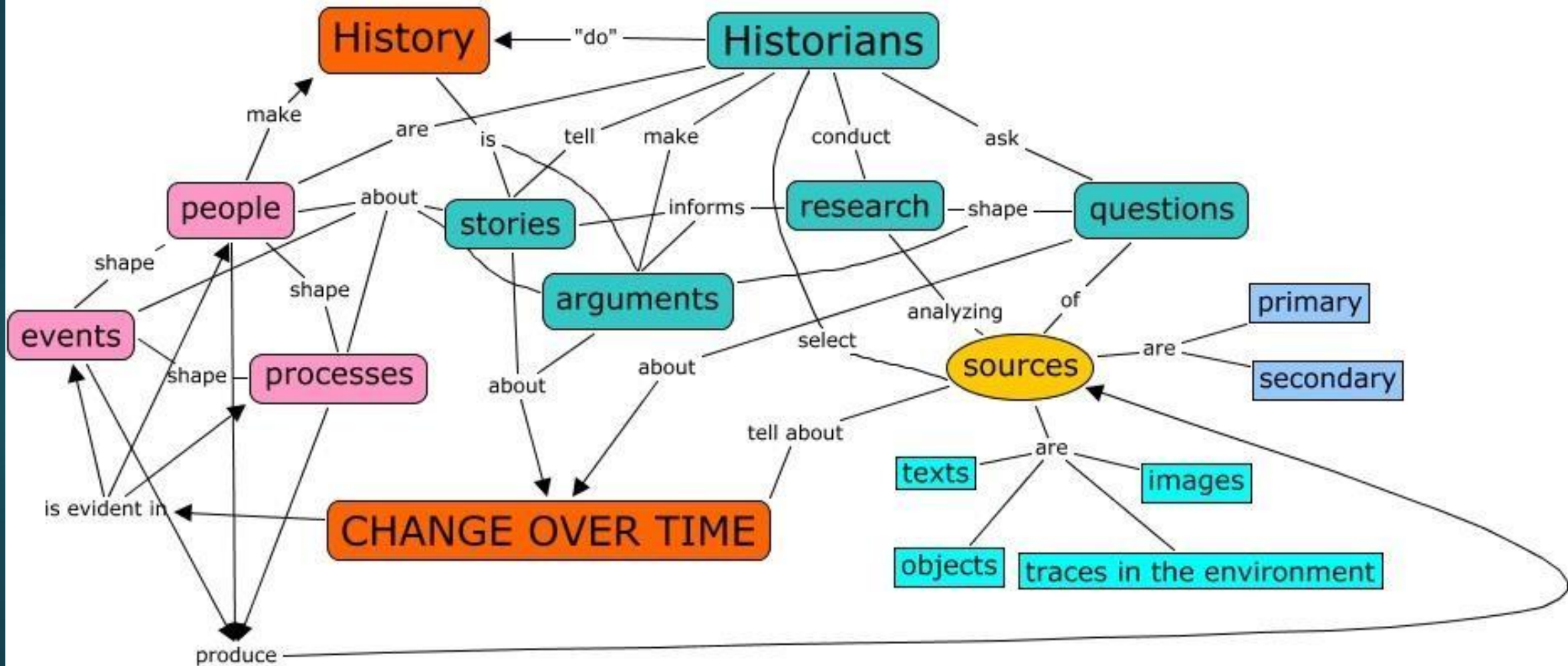
# What do others say?

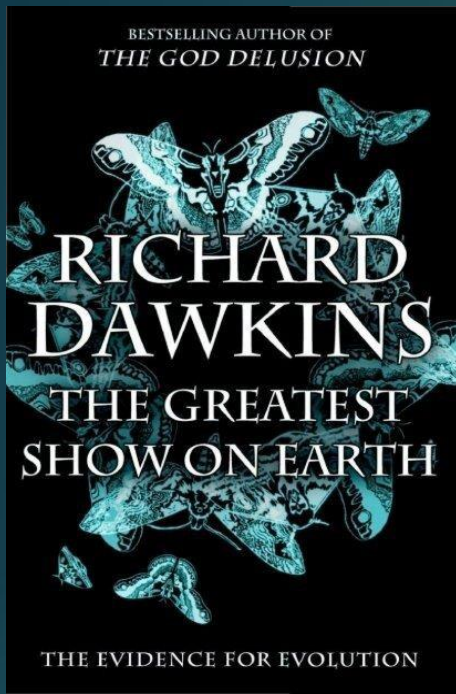
- “The historian and the facts are necessary to one another. The historian without the facts is rootless and futile and the facts without historians are dead and meaningless”  
- Edward Hallett Carr
- “History is the Unmodified change in the past ”  
- Aristotle
- “Autobiographies of great people is the Human history”  
- Carlyle, Emerson USA
- History is lies  
- Frederick II
- History is Fiction  
- Napolean , Voltaire
- History is Bunk  
- Henry Ford
- “Against the Surroundings force of weather wild animals & forests but it is Important and crucial making human beings into unconscious mind Exploiting Others for their Selfishness man since centuries onwards keeping continuous efforts against the Human beings is history”  
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru





# WHAT IS HISTORY?





# HUMANS A SPEC IN HISTORY

- Evolutionary biologist **Richard Dawkins** has a superb analogy to highlight this fact: Stretch your arms out to represent the span of the history of life on Earth, from the origins of life to where we are today. With this scale, the whole history of our species is represented by the thickness of one fingernail clipping. All of *recorded* human history is represented by the dust from one light stroke of a nail file.
- Of all the species that have ever lived on Earth, 99.9% are now extinct. Not only have we survived, we have also seen intellectual and technological progress beyond any other form of life.

# EVOLUTION

- About 13.5 Billion years ago matter, energy, time and space came into being in what is known as Big Bang. This story of the fundamental features of our Universe is called Physics.
- About 300,000 years after this appeared matter and energy started to coalesce into complex structures called atoms which then combined into molecules. The story of atoms, molecules and their interaction is called Chemistry.
- About 3.8 Billion years ago on a planet earth, certain molecules combined to form particularly large and intricate structures called organisms. The story of organism is called Biology.
- About 70,000 years ago organisms belonging to the species Homo sapiens started to form elaborate structures called cultures. The subsequent story of these ciultures is called History.

( Yuval Noah Harari, 2011, Sapiens; A brief History of Human kind, Penguin, Random House. U.K. )

# IS HISTORY UNIQUE TO HUMANS ?

- Ever since we learned to write, we have documented how special we are.
- Aristotle marked out our differences over 2,000 years ago. We are "**rational animals**" pursuing knowledge for its own sake.
- Humans and chimpanzees diverged from our common ancestor more than six million years ago.
- We left the trees, started walking and began to live in larger groups. And then our brains got bigger. Physically we are another primate, but our bigger brains are unusual.
- We started to produce superior cultural and technological artefacts. Our stone tools became more intricate.

# ADVANTAGES OF HUMANS

- We have our advanced language skills to thank for that.
- We tell stories, we dream, we imagine things about ourselves and others and we spend a great deal of time thinking about the future and analysing the past.
- We have a fundamental urge to link our minds together. "This allows us to take advantage of others' experiences, reflections and imaginings to prudently guide our own behaviour."

# IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY

- Historians do not perform heart transplants, improve highway design, or arrest criminals. In a society that quite correctly expects education to serve useful purposes, the functions of history can seem more difficult to define than those of engineering or medicine.
- Gives us an identity as to who we are.
- Studying history is important because it allows us to understand our past, which in turn allows us to understand our present.
- It is important because history helps you understand the past to predict the future and help in creating it.
- Understanding history helps us avoid repeating the mistakes over and over again.
- History is in fact very useful, actually indispensable, but the products of historical study are less tangible, sometimes less immediate, than those that stem from some other disciplines.

# FUNCTIONS OF HISTORY

## ➤ **History Helps Us Understand People and Societies.**

The past causes the present, and so the future. Any time we try to know why something happened—whether a shift in political party dominance, a major change in the teenage suicide rate, or a war in the Balkans or the Middle East—we have to look for factors that took shape earlier.

## ➤ **The Importance of History in Our Own Lives .**

History well told is beautiful. Biography and military history appeal in part because of the tales they contain.

# FUNCTIONS

- **History contributes to moral understanding.**

Studying the stories of individuals and situations in the past allows a student of history to test his or her own moral sense. People who have weathered adversity not just in some work of fiction, but in real, historical circumstances can provide inspiration.

- **History provides identity.**

History helps one to understand the immense complexity of our world and therefore enables one to cope with the problems and possibilities of the present and future. History provides us with a sense of identity. People need to develop a sense of their collective past.

- **Studying history is essential for good citizenship.**

History provides data about the emergence of national institutions, problems, and values—it's the only significant storehouse of such data available. It offers evidence also about how nations have interacted with other societies, providing international and comparative perspectives essential for responsible citizenship.



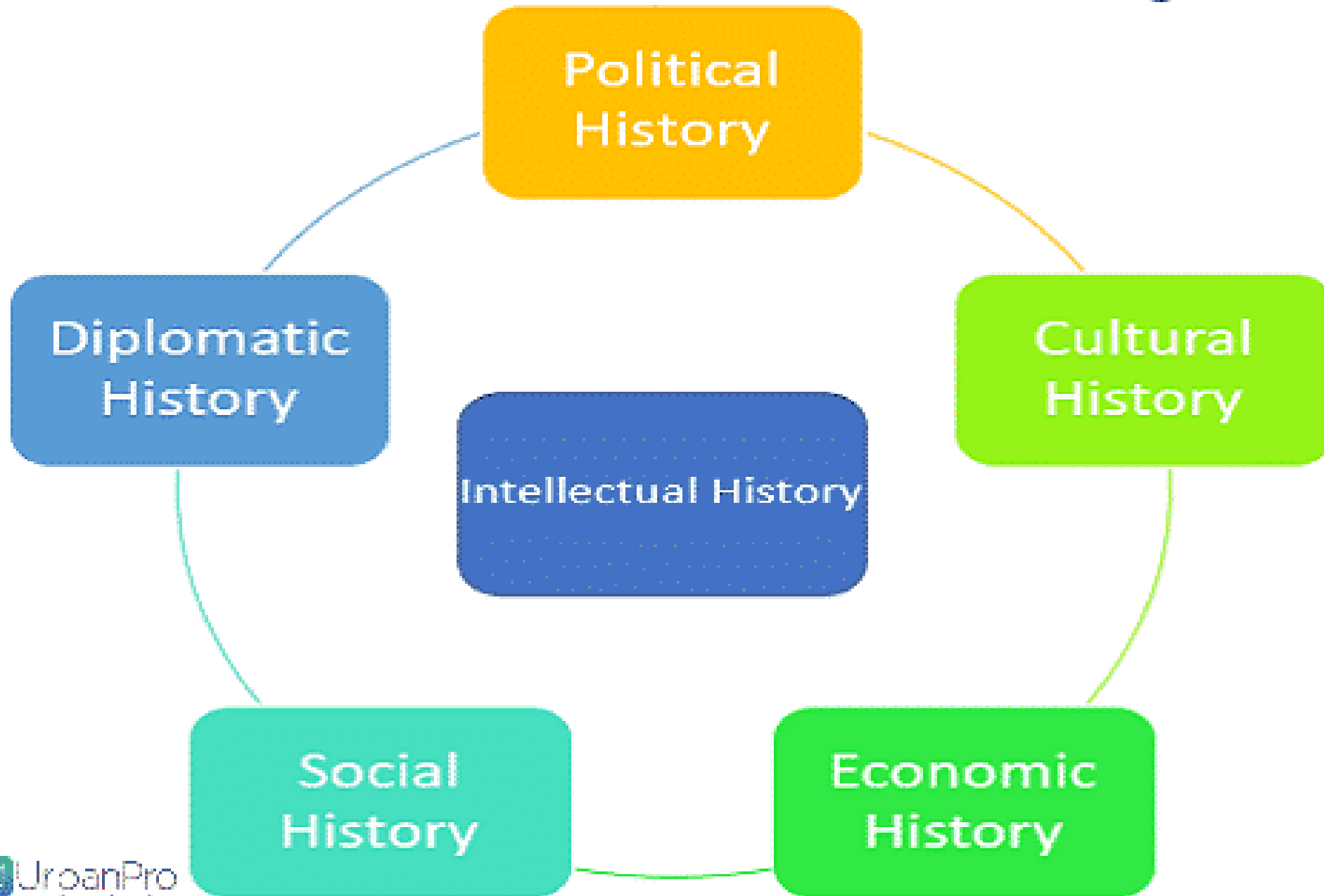
# WHY IS HISTORY NEEDED?

- The past has value to our society. It helps to show how we've gotten to where we are now, and understand why our country is progressing or not progressing.
- Our view of history shapes the way we view the present, and therefore it could be easier for new generations to preserve history and pass it on into the future generations to know what has really happened in the past.
- We should be aware of our respective culture to know the history of our own country.
- To evaluate the happenings of the past for the present generation not to commit the same mistakes of the past.

# CONNECTS TO THE WORLD

- History also helps us to understand many of the issues that affect the world today.
- By broadening your knowledge of current affairs, you are developing yourself personally and preparing yourself more fully for adult and working life.
- Can you think of any issues that affect the world that have their roots in history?

# 6 Different Types of History



# KINDS OF HISTORY

- **Political History** : Political History is the narration of the evolution of the political related matters of the past.
- **Diplomatic History** : That branch of history that focuses on the study of international relations between nations (between states).
- **Cultural History** : That branch of history that deals with the traditions and cultural interpretation of the past.
- **Social History** : The history which focuses on the study of various societal norms like ways of living, standard, customs, disciplines, status and so on of the people, alongside the demography. Women's History is an important branch.
- **Economic History** : Studies economies as well as economical phenomena of the past.
- **Intellectual History** : The history which aims to understand the ideas (ideology and philosophy) by understanding the political, cultural, intellectual, and social context of the past.

# WHAT ARE THE USES OF HISTORY ?

Bridging the gap between the present and the past

Explaining causes of things and events

Projecting the future

Promoting nationalism and patriotism

Recall

- historical facts and details

Realize

- importance and values learned

Repeat

- good parts of history



# USES OF HISTORY

1. History is essential to individuals and society
2. History helps us understand people and societies
3. History is the story of human life on Earth
4. History contributes to moral understanding
5. History provides Identity

# UNDERSTANDING CHANGE

- History is unique in that it investigates how human life has changed over time .
- Today the scientists, the administrators, technocrats, intellectuals, musicians, painters, artists, all are products of history.
- We will develop an understanding of change through the perspectives of political, social, cultural, economic, religious and scientific history .

# SKILLS

- Historians are regarded as having had an education that trains their minds to assemble, organise and present facts and opinions and this is a very useful quality in many walks of life and careers .
- History is an excellent preparation for very many other jobs.



# COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- The study of history is not just about interpreting the past but also presenting your thoughts .
- History helps you to write in an organised, coherent, logical way, supporting your views with evidence .
- This will help you in your other subjects, as well as in life and work later .

# RESEARCH SKILLS

A study of the past will introduce us to many different types of evidence, such as:

- Paintings, Sculptures, Photographs.
- Maps
- Oral literature and textual traditions.
- Political cartoons
- Diary entries, Memoirs
- Official records

# RESEARCH SKILLS

- As a historian , exploring these types of evidence enhances the research skills.
- A person can become skilled at locating historical data from different sources, evaluating it and recording and presenting their findings.
- One will also realise the importance of looking at issues from more than one point of view.

# ANALYTICAL SKILLS

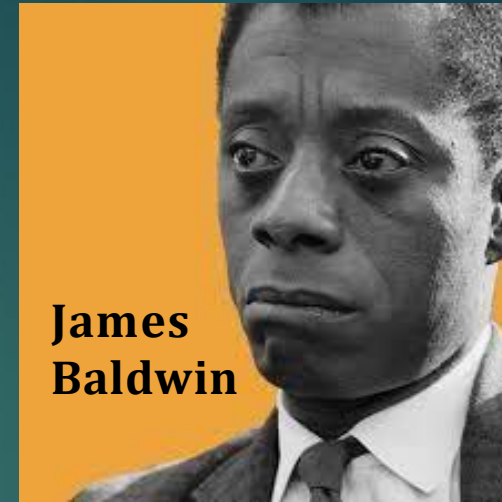
- You will also develop your ability to think critically, to evaluate the usefulness of sources, to detect bias or propaganda .
- These skills are very useful in many careers and in everyday life .

# ICT skills

- History allows you to access ICT, developing skills that are relevant to life and work today .
- The Internet offers a huge range of appropriate historical web sites .
- Many other electronic resources also exist for the study of history, such as CD-ROM's Library databases and catalogues .
- The use of modern digital media makes studying history very enjoyable and stimulating .



## ABUSE OF HISTORY



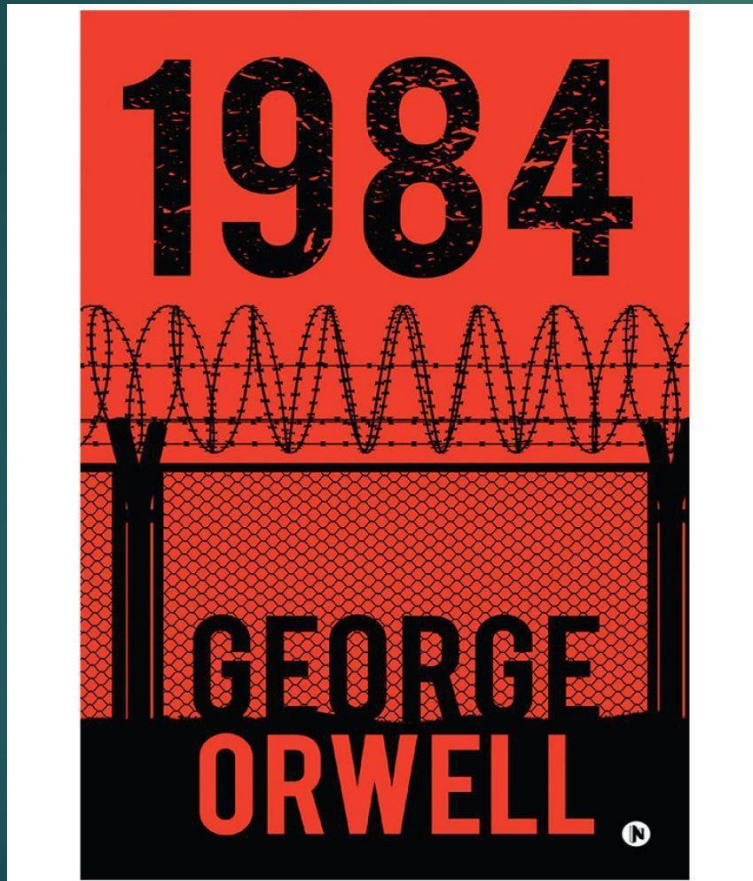
- **Carl L. Becker** Historian wrote, "History is what the present chooses to remember about the past." And as a nation founded on the pillars of genocide, slavery, patriarchy, violent repression of popular movements, savage war crimes committed to expand the empire, and capitalist exploitation, we choose to remember very little.
- The Historian **James Baldwin** never tired of pointing out, is very dangerous. It feeds self-delusion. It severs us from recognition of our propensity for violence. It shuts down the voices of the oppressed.
- "History does not merely refer to the past ... history is literally present in all we do,"

- **Baldwin**

# REWRITING OF HISTORY

- The rewriting of history is a project that has been undertaken by authoritarian regimes globally during the 20th and 21st centuries.
- In Nazi Germany, from 1934 onwards, many historians went into exile.
- Similarly, in the 1950s, many notable historians left Argentina during Juan Perón's tyrannical regime.
- There was censorship of historians in Pakistan after the Bangladesh war of 1971.

# GEORGE ORWELL



- This is a dystopian novel published in 1949. It describes a nightmare vision of future society – The polar opposite to a perfect world. George Orwell creates this image through a number of different methods and techniques.
- George Orwell imagined a future world where a government at war could switch allegiances with the Country's enemies and allies and adocile would accept the revised version of history unquestioningly. Orwell, a keen observer of the modern world, recognized that history itself could be manufactured and manipulated in the service of broader purposes.



# INDIAN HISTORY

- The development of history as an institutionalized discipline had its roots deep in the soil of colonial politics. The rise of British colonialism — for textualizing the past and standardizing an origin narrative. Britishers divided Indian History into Hindu, Muslim and British India. They came with the White man's Burden to civilise our society.
- We were backward civilisation where community was very important and we were spiritual. Our epics became myths and Sanskrit devalued.
- Gradually, during the early decades of the 20th century, when the anti-colonial resistance was at its zenith, it emerged as one of the primary spaces for constructing a national identity. Hence it set an example for political ideologues to seek their validation from history.

# A POWERFUL TOOL

- History becomes a powerful tool and there are attempts at rewriting our history.
- Hindu nationalism attempts to fortify its ideology and create a long-lasting influence, it is only natural that it would turn towards history.
- This right-wing revisionism balances itself on binaries, such as fact *versus* myth and also Hindus *versus* Muslims.
- Identity blocks of 'Hindus' and 'Muslims' are not cultural givens or historical monoliths, but results of political process with innumerable divisions and fragments that can only become the dominant sentiments as a result of a specific political process.
- Leads to false consciousness- communalism where religion and not class and culture is the dividing force.

# HISTORY REWRITING PROJECT

- Therefore, 75 years after Independence, as Hindu nationalism attempts to fortify its ideology and create a long-lasting influence, it is only natural that it would turn towards history and archaeology.
- Archaeological representations need to be used carefully in the creation of histories. Artefacts do not provide normative conclusive 'truths' as it is often claimed in these projects of rewriting. Hence it becomes problematic to cite archaeological sources as proof of mythological narratives. This right-wing revisionism balances itself on binaries, such as fact *versus* myth and also Hindus *versus* Muslims. In India, religious sentiments and values could not be divorced from political processes. Identity blocks of 'Hindus' and 'Muslims' are not cultural givens or historical monoliths, but results of political process with innumerable divisions and fragments that can only become the dominant sentiments as a result of a specific political process.
- At this juncture, since the identity of being a 'Hindu' has gained primacy in the public sphere, it is being consolidated through this attempt to trace Hindu origins by rewriting 'history'. Not only does this polarization add fuel to the fire of communal tension within South Asian politics at large but it also marginalizes other groups within the broader Indian demographic, such as Dalits and other lower-caste groups, religious minorities like Parsis and Jews, and even women.
- This Hindu history will reify history by underplaying the role of women and other gender groups. By reiterating patriarchal stereotypes of women, the right-wing government will facilitate its politics of invented traditionalism. It will also obliterate

# HISTORY AND SINGULAR TRUTH

- The grand narrative, which is taught in schools as history, is a mouthpiece of the State. This rewriting project will affect future generations of learners immensely. Rather than being taught how to think, they will be absorbed into a system of being told what to think. The pedagogical routes for unlearning will gradually become endangered.
- The association of history with the idea of a singular truth has long been criticized by generations of historians. And yet, it remains the bridge over the gulf which separated history and politics in India. However, in these dark times, the promise of a better tomorrow lies within history. Since it always repeats itself, we can only hope that it dethrones the authoritarianism that lurks beneath the facade of democracy, ushering in a new era characterized by greater compassion, understanding and, above all, humanity.

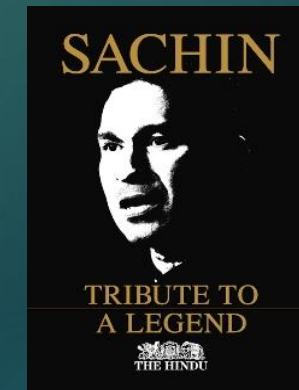
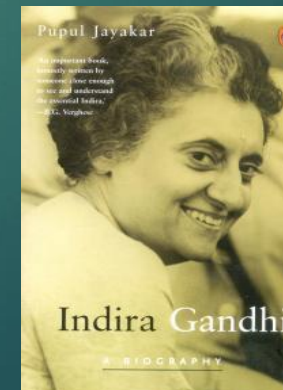
# The End Is the Beginning



- Are you willing to put on the four hats of historian and attempt to understand the past...in order to ensure a brighter future for yourself, for your family, for your community, for your nation, and for your world?

***The value of history ... is that it teaches us what man has done and thus what man is and can do. – R. G. Collingwood***

- **Do you have a story?**
- **THEN you have a HISTORY**



# History and Contemporary world

History

History is the mother of social science

Information Communication Technology

Medicine

engineering

Science

sports

political

Current affairs

Physics

zoology

chemistry

Botany

# CONCLUSIONS

- Choosing history allows you to acquire a combination of skills and insights that will.
- Broaden your understanding of the world.
- Develop you as a person.
- Prepare you for a future career.
- Enable you to participate fully in society.
- It is a powerful tool that can also lead to abuse.

*Thank You.....*



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