

DEFINITIONS OF HISTORY

History is the short trudge from Adam to atom.

Leonard Louis Levinson

History is past politics, and politics is present history.

Sir John Robert Seeley

History abhors determinism but cannot tolerate chance.

Bernard de Voto

History is philosophy teaching by example.

Dionysius of Halicarnassus

The historian's first duties are sacrilege and the mocking of false gods.

Jules Michelet

Chance is a mask, and it is precisely the historian's duty to life it or fear it away.

Remy de Gourmont

History is more or less bunk.

Henry Ford

I don't take no stock in dead people.

Huck Finn

Life must be lived, forward; but it can be understood only backward.

Soren Kierkegaard

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

George Santayana

The main this is to make history, not to write it.

Otto von Bismark

Any fool can make history, but it takes genius to write it.

Oscar Wilde

...die phantasie, welche wie aller Poesis so auch aller Historie di Mutter ist...

Theodor Mommsen

Nothing capable of being memorized is history.

R.G. Collingwood

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History is filled with the sound of silken slippers going down stairs and wooden shoes coming up
Voltaire

That which has been is that which will be. That which has been done is that which will be done.
There is nothing new under the sun.
Ecclesiastes 1:9

The historian must not try to know what is truth, if he values his honesty; for if he cares for his truths, he is certain to falsify his facts.
Henry Adams

Who does not know that the first law of historical writing is the truth?
Cicero

The certainty of history seems to be in direct inverse ratio to what we know about it.
Author Unknown

History is a pact between the dead, the living, and yet unborn.
Edmund Burke

Ended, a story is history.
Wendell Berry

Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking around.
G.K. Chesterton

Though a good deal is too strange to be believed, nothing is too strange to have happened.
Thomas Hardy

The one duty we owe to history is to rewrite it.
Oscar Wilde

The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you can see.
Winston Churchill

History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.
David McCullough

DEFINITIONS OF HISTORY

Fewer great historical events are brought about by the power of the new than by the enduring strength of the old.

Murray Kempton

You must always know the past, for there is no real Was, there is only Is.

William Faulkner

I know history isn't true, Hennessey, because it ain't like what I see every day in Halstead Street.

Mister Dooley

The first law of history is to dread utterly a falsehood; the next is not to fear stating the truth; lastly the historians' writings should be open to no suspicion of partiality or animosity.

Pope Leo XIII

History books that contain no lies are extremely tedious.

Anatole France

History is the living tissue of facts. In this tissue, the thoughts and actions of God and men blend, unite, at times appear at variance, cross each other, and even impede each other's course, the final result being a wonderful mosaic, of which the most outstanding feature is the undying love of God for the human race.

Pope Pius XI

Respect for the past must be pious, but not mad.

V.V. Rozinov

History is past politics, and politics is present history.

Sir John Robert Seeley

History abhors determinism but cannot tolerate chance.

Bernard de Voto

The historian's first duties are sacrilege and the mocking of false fools.

Jules Michelet

The history of the world is but the biography of great men/women.

Thomas Carlyle

The only history worth reading is...the history of that was done and seen and, heard out of the mouths of the men/women who did and saw.

John Ruskin

DEFINITIONS OF HISTORY

History is something that never happened, written by a man/women who wasn't there, for people who will misinterpret it.

Anonymous

Historians fall in to three categories:

Those who lie;
Those who are mistaken;
Those who don't know.

Anonymous

The supreme purpose of history is a better world.

Herbert Hoover

History repeats itself. That's one of the things that's wrong with it.

Clarence Darrow

Histories make men/women wise.

Roger Bacon

The historian whose style surpasses his learning is a sophist; the historian whose learning surpasses his style is a bore.

James Baker

History comes at us any old way, higgledy-piggledy, and every day when you look at it, it looks like a mess.

Maxwell Anderson

We learn from history that we never learn anything from history.

Hegel

Any time gone by was better.

George Manrique

Clio, the muse of history, is as thoroughly infected with lies as a street whore with syphilis.

C.V. Wedgewood

The past does not repeat itself, but it rhymes.

Mark Twain

History is a myth that men/women agree to believe.

Napoleon