

History and Historiography

by

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This is not a comprehensive bibliography on historical methods, but it offers a basic introduction to many important publications on the subject. In addition to journals such as History and Theory, there are a wide range of specialized periodicals that emphasize particular approaches to the past, too numerous to mention here. Examples include Social Science History, the Oral History Review, Historical Methods, the Journal of Social History, the Journal of Psychohistory, History and Sociology, and so forth. For postmodern approaches to the past, see Rethinking History.

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In a nutshell, historiography is the history of history. Rather than subjecting actual events - say, Hitler's annexation of Austria - to historical analysis, the subject of historiography is the history of the history of the event: the way it has been written, the sometimes conflicting objectives pursued by those writing on it over time, and the way in which such factors shape our understanding of the actual event at stake, and of the nature of history itself. Questions of historiography include the following 2 "History" and "the past". 3 Revision and historiography. 4 The study of great individuals. 5 The study of "winds of change".

Revision and historiography. Because there are so many of these stories, they are often variable, contradictory and conflicting. This means history is subject to constant revision and reinterpretation. Each generation looks at the past through its own eyes. It applies different standards, priorities and values and reaches different conclusions about the past. History and historiography. Transcribe the following words. Pay attention to the stress.

Before the late 18th century, historiography or the writing of history did not stand at the centre of any civilization. History was almost never an important part of regular education, and it never claimed to provide an interpretation of human life as a whole. This was more appropriately the function of religion, of philosophy, even perhaps of poetry and other imaginative literature.

History and Historiography. I. INTRODUCTION. History, in its broadest sense, is the totality of all past events, although a more realistic definition would limit it to the known past. Historiography is the written record of what is known of human lives and societies in the past and how historians have attempted to understand them. Of all the fields of serious Historiography is a history of history. What was its purpose at the time a book was written, and what records were available to the historian at that stage? For example - the story of what happened at Dunkirk has been told in many different ways since 1940. Historiographers are not constrained by scientific legitimacy, but seek legitimacy through historical narratives.