

Why Study History?

Seeing current events in context

Learning from the past

Assessing large amounts of information

Developing critical skills

Understanding ourselves and others, developing tolerance for the viewpoints of others

Developing a shared culture.

Definition: History is the pursuit and the communication of the truth about the human past through the critical evaluation and interpretation of relevant evidence.

The study of history is our guarantee of a free society in which knowledge is not controlled or owned by one group. In the former Soviet Union all history teaching reflected what the government wanted to be taught about the past with little regard for the truth. As the Soviet leader, Khrushchev, said 'Historians are dangerous people, they are capable of upsetting everything.'

History as a way of understanding our own culture and the way this came to exist.

Major events and the impact they have on the lives of people at the time and later.

Many reasons for learning history: for interest, witness the growth of history popularised by the vast number of television programs dedicated to the subject.

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