THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING HISTORY AS A SUBJECT

Abstract: This article extensively discusses the origins of history, its importance to the present day, and the basic needs for history. Without the historical research, it is stated that the future is not vivid according to the scientific literature.

Key words: history, past, present, patriotism, stories.

Language: English

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Introduction

History is a science involved in discovering, collecting, sorting and displaying information about past events. Historians are called historians. Historical science analyzes the sequence of events and systematizes their causes and effects. Historians debate the nature and usefulness of history. This course also examines the subject itself and attempts to solve contemporary problems using it. Stories about a culture but not based on external sources (for example, myths about Alpomish) are a cultural heritage rather than a historical theme [5, 6].

The main findings and results

As it is know that all human beings are living histories. Penelope J. Corfield tries to answer following questions in an article which is called “All people are living histories – which is why History matters”. Historians are often asked: what is the use or relevance of studying History? Why on earth does it matter what happened long ago? “The answer is that History is inescapable. It studies the past and the legacies of the past in the present. Far from being a 'dead' subject, it connects things through time and encourages its students to take a long view of such connections.

All people and peoples are living histories. To take a few obvious examples: communities speak languages that are inherited from the past. They live in societies with complex cultures, traditions and religions that have not been created on the spur of the moment. People use technologies that they have not themselves invented. And each individual is born with a personal variant of an inherited genetic template, known as the genome, which has evolved during the entire life-span of the human species.

So understanding the linkages between past and present is absolutely basic for a good understanding of the condition of being human. That, in a nutshell, is why History matters. It is not just 'useful', it is essential.

The study of the past is essential for 'rooting' people in time. And why should that matter? The answer is that people who feel themselves to be rootless live rootless lives, often causing a lot of damage to themselves and others in the process. Indeed, at the most extreme end of the out-of-history spectrum, those individuals with the distressing experience of complete memory loss cannot manage on their own at all. In fact, all people have a full historical context. But some, generally for reasons that are no fault of their own, grow up with a weak or troubled sense of their own placing, whether within
their families or within the wider world. They lack a sense of roots. For others, by contrast, the inherited legacy may even be too powerful and outright oppressive.

In all cases, understanding History is integral to a good understanding of the condition of being human. That allows people to build, and, as may well be necessary, also to change, upon a secure foundation. Neither of these options can be undertaken well without understanding the context and starting points. All living people live in the here-and-now but it took a long unfolding history to get everything to now. And that history is located in time-space, which holds this cosmos together, and which frames both the past and the present” [1].

While writing the paper a range of sources are examined fully and found the best reasons to study history in frogtutoring.com. They are following causes to love the history [2].

1. History helps to understand other cultures. Why are other cultures different from ours? Why is it that some cultures are antagonistic with each other, while others coexist in harmony? Why are there different customs, different traditions, and different religions from culture to culture? The answer to all of these questions lies in history. Without history, it is impossible to understand how cultures come to be. As the study of change, history identifies the driving forces behind cultures. A culture’s history is integral to the shared identities of its members, and you can’t see the full picture of a culture without understanding the history behind it [2].

2. History helps to understand our own society. Similarly to how we can understand others through the study of history, we can also come to understand ourselves. Why do we do things the way we do? How did these social structures and traditions come to be? Looking at history in this light illuminates the forces acting on our own society through history and into the present. The student of history draws on politics, sociology, economics, and anthropology, all of which feed into the history of individuals and societies. In order to successfully navigate our society in the present day, it is essential to know what came before, the driving forces of change that shape our lives, and the individuals of the past who shaped our society [8].

History helps to understand our own identities. History isn’t just a collection of famous names and events woven into a story that takes place in the past. History is the story of the past, and of everybody in it. Every individual had a place in shaping the historical narrative we know today, and every individual today has a place in molding the history that unfolds today. In order to understand our place within society, within our culture, and even within our own family, it is essential to realize that our present is the product of what came before, and the past provides a context for everything we do as an individual. Knowing where you fit into history gives you a context for yourself, your culture, and your world today. History gives you an understanding of your own identity.

History builds citizenship. Why are we good citizens? Because we have an understanding of a shared past and a communal identity, and we get this shared experience through our common knowledge of our history. Learning about how we came to be as a community informs how we see ourselves as a group in the present day, and we do this through knowing our history. Knowing how our shared experience came to be and what has defined us in the past gives us a reason to work towards a better society today. This is why American history is taught in school: it tells us why we are American, how we got to be American, and what it means to be an American today.

History gives insight into present-day problems. Without understand the root of a problem, there is no hope of solving it. This is what history does: it identifies the driving forces of society, of government, of individuals, of change, and it traces these features of the past to contemporary features of the world. We can’t confront international crises without one of the most basic tools in our belt, namely understanding how the crisis arose and what forces shape them. Conflict cannot be resolved without comprehending the historical roots of a situation. If we want to stand any chance of confronting the pressing issues of our world, we need to start at the root of the problem: we need to know history [9].

History builds reading and writing skills. In many ways, history is as good as an English class at developing reading and writing skills because it employs many of the same techniques, as well as adding several other elements. Studying history involves reading different sources - be they documents, letters, or even novels - and pulling out themes and patterns, motifs and details, and making sense of what these features tell us about the past. This is similar to the task of the English student, but even more, history adds layers of politics and social change that inform the modern world. Writing is the vessel to communicate the exciting discoveries and keen observations of the history student, and as such history teaches us to read thoroughly and write well [5].

History builds interpretation and analysis skills. History is based on the records left behind in past decades and centuries, so the study of history is inherently an act of analysis and interpretation. Similarly to how one reads classic literature in order to understand something about the author and society from which it originates, one looks at historical documents and letters, and indeed novels and art, to understand the time period that created them. This gives the history student several skills that carry over into every walk of life and are among the most useful tools to carry into the world. We learn how to compare conflicting interpretations and identify biases. We
learn how to see an issue from multiple perspectives. We learn how to assess evidence and determine its value. A good understanding of history will leave any student with this indispensable inventory of skills that can carry anybody far in life.

History helps to understand change. History is the study of change. The world around us is in a constant state of change, and understanding the role of change in society plays a pivotal role in being able to interpret the world that we see now. Without understanding why things used to be different and how they interacted to shape one another, it is impossible to get a complete picture of the here and now. History will give us a firm grasp on why things change, the mechanisms that drive change, the significance of some features of change to others, and the different magnitudes of change. Conversely, by giving us an understanding of change, history also helps us comprehend stability and the continuities that exist from past to present and from society to society. In short, history is a tool to understand the world [10].

History allows to learn from the past. “Those who don’t know history are doomed to repeat it.” This oft-quoted saying tells a great truth: history has patterns. One of the continuities in history is the mistakes that are made century after century as people live in pursuit of the same self-interested motives. Wars are fought for the same reasons. Regimes topple through the same shortcomings. Riots and revolts accompany the same abuses. Men and women take stands against the same oppression time and time again. This is why history is essential to the repertoire of the politician and the ruler, because understanding the failures of the past puts us one step closer to addressing the shortcomings of the present [6].

History is the greatest of stories. History has so many practical uses that it’s easy to forget that history is also a story, a thrilling adventure that takes place across the world and through the ages. This story encompasses the great empires of China, Rome, and Britain, the conquests of Alexander the Great and Napoleon, the explorations of Marco Polo, and the defeat of the Spanish Armada. It’s a story of romance in the royal courts of Europe, of honor in the Japanese samurai, and of spycraft in the American Revolution. There is the devastation and tragedy of two World Wars, the rise and fall of dictators and oppressors, and the fight for rights and liberties in a world of abuses. History is a tale that spans the entire human experience, and it is a tale in which we all have a part to play [11].

Discussion

According to our research, several points can be added to the above mentioned ideas:

History promotes patriotism and enhances responsible citizenship. By studying history, one finds out how his/her nation emerged, the problems encountered and also the nation’s values. He/she also discovers how the country interacted with other societies. This information enables him to appreciate his nation and becomes a responsible citizen.

History is a good subject for career and professional development. The study of history helps create good political leaders, professionals (teachers, lawyers) and business people. One can study history in order to teach at any stage of school. The best lawyers base their legal arguments on past cases. Journalists study history in order to report news in a more informed way [3].

It creates a sense of moral understanding: When you read the stories of past individuals and situations, you put yourself in a position to question your own moral sense, improve it so that it can face the real world around you.

Cultural consciousness and cross-cultural appreciation can be realized through the study of historical events. Sometimes people behave in certain ways and we quickly rush to judge them without understanding why they are that way. When we study history, we come across many societies that have different cultures and norms and you may want to learn those cultures. We develop a deeper understanding of our society and live in harmony with those that seem different from us. We make sense of it all and forge ahead, fully aware of how far we’ve come [3].

It provides information about genealogy: It is a common practice to find people studying their family history. This important because you get to know your family tree which in turn helps you avoid taboos such as marrying from your clan. People also like to identify with their forefathers and mothers especially if they were reputable concerning wealth, royalty and so on.

To preserve important memories and events: The future generations will need to know about those who came before them and influenced the world in one way or another. We study history so that we can pass on stories to the next generation.

Many historical personalities are role models of many. For example, Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in promoting the use of non-violence as a tool of airing discontent voices in the society. Similarly, a student who want to be good in poetry may read the work of Alisher Navai, Cholpan and many more [3].

Conclusion

As we discussed above, History plays very vital role in human civilization [11, 12, 13]. Studying history is important because it allows us to understand our past, which in turn allows us to understand our present. If we want to know how and why our world is the way it is today, we have to look to history for answers. People often say that “history repeats itself,” but if we study the successes and failures of the past, we may, ideally, be able to learn from our mistakes.
and avoid repeating them in the future. Studying history can provide us with insight into our cultures of origin as well as cultures with which we might be less familiar, thereby increasing cross-cultural awareness and understanding [14].

References: