The study of history is important because it offers a storehouse of information about how people and societies behave (Stearns, 1998). Historic events create somewhat of a road map to human thought, a flawed one to be sure, but a good jumping-off point for predicting future human (and sometimes non-human) events. Any time we try to know why something happened we have to look for factors that took shape earlier (Stearns, 1998). As the only living things on this planet that can record our past/present, and preserve it for others to understand, we are able to learn from and interpret this written past to make sense of our present ordeals.

History also provides a terrain for moral contemplation (Stearns, 1998). By allowing one’s self to be tested by the truly complex and sometimes disturbing issues blended into the tomes of the past, we can find real moral inspiration to govern our own lives by. A study of history is essential for good citizenship (Stearns, 1998). Any family, tribe or nation requires a banded identity to strive, and grow. This unity gives a stronger sense of ownership to the individuals that inhabit it, built ever stronger by the varied historical events of the entities past.