

A companion to greek and roman historiography

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Historiography of Greeks and Romans**

Historiography refers to the study and writing of history. Both the Greeks and Romans developed sophisticated traditions of historiography, each with its own unique characteristics and contributions.

Sources of Roman Historiography

The primary sources for Roman historiography are written accounts by Roman authors. These include:

- **Annals:** Chronological records of events
- **Biographies:** Accounts of the lives of prominent individuals
- **Speeches:** Speeches delivered by statesmen and orators
- **Letters:** Correspondence between individuals
- **Archaeological evidence:** Artifacts and ruins that provide insights into Roman society and history

Importance of Greco-Roman Historiography

The historiography of the Greeks and Romans has played a pivotal role in Western civilization. It has:

- **Documented the past:** Preserved knowledge of historical events, figures, and societies.

- **Influenced modern historiography:** Established methods, techniques, and traditions that have shaped the way history is studied today.
- **Provided insights into human nature:** Explored themes of power, ambition, morality, and the human condition.

Differences between Greek and Roman Historians

While both Greek and Roman historians produced influential works, there were some notable differences between them:

- **Purpose:** Greek historians often sought to explain historical events with philosophical and ethical principles. Roman historians tended to emphasize practical and political aspects.
- **Style:** Greek historians often wrote in a more literary and poetic style. Roman historians typically used a more straightforward and factual approach.
- **Objectivity:** Many Greek historians aimed for objectivity and critical analysis. Some Roman historians, particularly those commissioned by the state, tended to present a more favorable view of their own society.

Father of Greek Historiography

The "father of Greek historiography" is generally considered to be **Herodotus**, who wrote the "Histories" in the 5th century BC. This work chronicled the Persian Wars and provided a wealth of information about ancient Greece and Persia.

Name of Greek and Roman History

The combined history of Greece and Rome is often referred to as **Greco-Roman history**. This term encompasses the period from the Bronze Age to the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century AD.

Founder of Roman Historiography

The founder of Roman historiography is **Quintus Fabius Pictor**, who wrote the first history of Rome in the 3rd century BC.

Reliability of Roman Historians

A COMPANION TO GREEK AND ROMAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

The reliability of Roman historians varies depending on the author and the time period being described. While some historians, such as Livy and Tacitus, are generally considered trustworthy, others, like Florus, have been accused of bias and inaccuracy.

Universal History in Roman Historiography

Universal history, or the attempt to write a comprehensive history of the world, emerged in Roman historiography with the work of **Polybius**. His "Histories" aimed to trace the rise and fall of the Roman Empire within the context of global events.

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