

INTRODUCTION

This is from a short blog post that briefly encompasses my thoughts on the importance of historiography as a discipline and as an essential skill for understanding the world around us. The purpose of the blog was to put to words some of my thoughts on history as a discipline. This document was formatted in Microsoft Word and utilizes headings.

A SHORT THOUGHT ON HISTORIOGRAPHY

Historiography. It is the study of the craft, the art, of history itself. The study of how events have been recorded and perceived through the passage of time. It allows us to see how hindsight, new events, new experiences, and the simple passage of time affect the way that events are recorded and analyzed for posterity. It is important because we need to understand more than just the history. We need to understand the historian.

"Know yourself before seeking to know others." A wonderful philosophy I learned in the dojo, I find myself coming back to it time and time again in my contemplative moments because it speaks to the way I think, the way I see the world, the way I try to find myself, define myself, and understand myself.

Knowing yourself and understanding the various roles you play in life is so important because it allows you to step back and see the filters through which you observe the world. This level of understanding allows you to then look to others and understand how they see the world by stepping back and looking at more than just the individual. It encourages you to consider everything that affects that person's world-view be it religion, gender, economics, education, or nationality, just to name a few.

It makes knowing and understanding history so important in today's world because we are so interconnected and so diverse. The perception and understanding of history applies to diplomacy, foreign and domestic policy, teaching your students, understanding leadership, and, perhaps most importantly, understanding yourself.