What Is History?

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Definitions of History



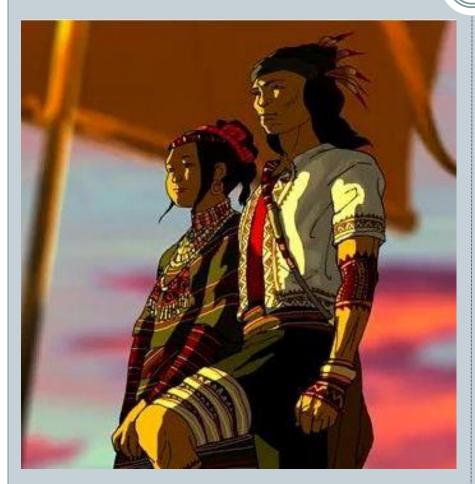
- History is the past itself.
- History is the study of the past.
- History is the recreation of the past.
- History comes from the Greek word "Historia," which means "Learning from inquiry," "Inquiry" or "Investigation."
- History is interpretive.

Some Characteristics of History



- 1. History is subjective. Historical facts are objective but interpretations of history are subjective.
- Questions asked in history:
- 1. What happened?
- 2. Why did it happen?
- 3. What is the moral or relevance of the story?





• 2. History is an art.

History must be presented in an engaging manner.



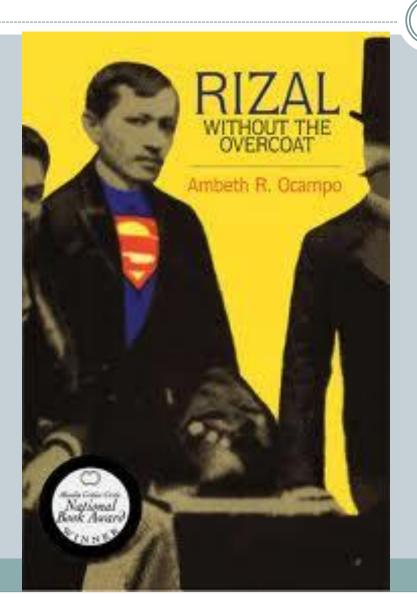
3. **History is a science**. History is based on facts.
Therefore, it has to use the Scientific Method in studying the past.



Sources in History



- 1. Primary Source
 - A source that is an eyewitness of the event. May be:
 - A. Relics or artifacts.
 - B. Written sources.
 - C. Oral testimonies.





- 2. Secondary source.
 - A source that is based on a primary source.

Why Do We Study History?



- 1. To learn from past mistakes and successes.
- 2. "To familiarize the alien."
- 3. "To alienate the familiar."
- 4. To learn cultural relativism.

STUDYING HISTORY USING THE INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

2 THE ARGUMENTS FOR INTERDISCIPLINARITY

- The **intellectual argument** for interdisciplinarity is that ideas in any field are enriched by theories, concepts, and methods from other fields.
- The **practical argument** for interdisciplinarity is that problems of the world are not organized according to academic disciplines. The social sciences are an important intellectual resource in addressing virtually every problem of the day.
- The **pedagogical argument** for interdisciplinary studies has received a resurgence of support. Interdisciplinary studies are now mainstream requirements in universities.

3 DEFINITIONS

- Intradisciplinary within disciplinary work
- Crossdisciplinary viewing of one discipline from the perspective of another
- Multidisciplinary involves several disciplines that each provide a different perspective on a problem or issue
- Interdisciplinary involves integration of the contributions of several disciplines to a problem or issue
- **Transdisciplinary** concerned with the unity of intellectual frameworks beyond the disciplinary perspectives

• According to Salazar (1998), interdisciplinarity is "a result of focal use of the disciplines and their methods and approaches. Focus on whole (Pilipinas) and problems related to it necessarily leads to an integrating use of all possible disciplines."

5 INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN HISTORY

- **Political history** is the study of all those aspects of the past that have to do with the formal organization of power in society, which for the majority of human societies means the state.
- The **Annales school** advocated that historians should not just have a broader approach but an awareness of what they could learn from other disciplines, especially the social sciences economics, sociology, social psychology, and geography.

- **Economic history** focuses on "earthly necessities" and seeks to reconstruct production, exchange, and consumption.
- **Social history** is the history of everyday life.
- **Cultural history** studies culture, i.e. patterns of thought and understanding, modes of language, rituals of life, and ways of thinking.