

“The future is unknowable but the past should give us hope.”
–Winston Churchill

“The greatest historian should be a great moralist...able to paint for us the life of plain people, the ordinary men and women, of the times of which he writes.”
–Theodore Roosevelt, *Pastmasters*

“The study of history would be meaningless if it did not have an ultimately religious significance and religious goal”
–Arnold Toynbee

“Indeed the general tendency of reading good history must be, to fix in the minds of youth deep impressions of the beauty and usefulness of virtue of all kinds.”
–Ben Franklin

“To illustrate the glory of his nation is one of the noblest offices of the historian.”
–Washington Irving

“Mankind are so much the same, in all times and places, that history informs us of nothing new or strange in this particular. Its chief use is only to discover the constant and universal principles of human nature.”
–David Hume

“Anyone who is tired of history is tired of life.”
–Henry Steele Commager, *The Study of History*

“Perhaps history should show us not how to control the world, but how to enlarge, deepen and discipline ourselves.”
–Gretel Ehrlich

“The organized study of history is, I believe, a powerful academic antidote to atomism, the radical aloneness of so many people today. It introduces students (and adults) to companions on a human journey, fellow travelers on the road.”
–Mary Beth Klee

“People who take no pride in the noble achievement of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants.”
–Thomas Macaulay

“A nation without an idea of history is like a person without a memory. A victim of amnesia who is lost the remembrance of things past is incapable of acting in the present or of planning for the future.”
–David Hackett Fischer

“History cannot give us a program for the future but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future.”

–Robert Penn Warren

“To recover some of our ancestors’ real thoughts and feelings is the hardest, subtlest and most educated function that the historian can perform.”

–Theodore Roosevelt

“The poetry of history lies in the quasi-miraculous fact that once on this earth, once on this familiar spot of ground, walked other men and women, as actual as we are today, thinking their own thoughts, swayed by their own passions, but now all gone, one generation vanishing into another, gone as utterly as we are ourselves shall shortly be gone, like ghosts at cockcrow.”

–G.M. Trevelyan

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“The principal office of history I take to be this: to prevent virtuous actions from being forgotten, and that evil works and deeds should fear an infamous reputation with posterity.”

–Tacitus, *Annals*, III. LXV

“A people which no longer remembers has lost its history and its soul.”

–Alexander Solzhenitsyn

“History can be well-written only in a free country.”

–Voltaire, in a letter to Frederick the Great, May 27, 1737