History

**Billy: “Adam and Eve were lucky. They didn’t have any history to learn.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**History is the sum total of the things that could have been avoided. *(Konrad Adenauer, German statesman)***

**The advantage of history is knowing that there is as much relevance to be found in the Peloponnesian War as in yesterday's newspaper; more relevance in the Socratic dialogues than in some hastily concocted course in social psychology. What is relevant, after all, is human experience, and this has been accumulating for quite some time. Any person who considers himself, and intends to remain, a member of Western society inherits the Western past from Athens and Jerusalem to Runnymede and Valley Forge, as well as Watts and Chicago. *(Barbara W. Tuchman, in Practicing History)***

**History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, however, if faced with courage, need not be lived again. *(Maya Angelou, poet and memoirist)***

**Maybe if we did a better job of listening, history wouldn’t have to repeat itself. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**History is moving, and it will tend toward hope, or tend toward tragedy. *(George W. Bush)***

**The history of the world is the record of the weakness, frailty, and death of public opinion. *(Samuel Butler)***

**History is not happenstance. It is conspiratorial, carefully planned, and executed by people in power. *(George Carlin)***

**History is the cemetery of men who were sure that they were indispensable. *(Dublin Opinion)***

**History is a vast early warning system. *(Norman Cousins, journalist)***

**History repeats itself, but in such cunning disguise that we never detect the resemblance until the damage is done. (*Sydney J. Harris, journalist)***

**History keeps repeating itself. That's one of the things wrong with history. *(Clarence Darrow)***

**Nothing repeats itself, but in such cunning disguise that we never detect the resemblance until the damage is done. *(Sydney J. Harris, journalist)***

**What we have learned from history is that we haven't learned from history. *(Benjamin Disraeli)***

**If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree. *(Michael Crichton)***

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**History is mostly guessing. The rest is prejudice. *(Will Durant, historian)***

**One of the lessons of history is that nothing is often a good thing to do and always a clever thing to say. *(Will Durant)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*History, it turns out, is not over. Liberal democracies have not won the war of ideas. In his influential 1992 book, The End of History, political philosopher Francis Fukuyama surveyed a world in which the Soviet Union had collapsed, the Cold War was over, and the West had won -- seemingly for good. Free-market democracies, Fukuyama said, had proven they were the "final form of human government." But that victory's permanence was an illusion. In the 21st century, liberal democracy is in retreat all over the world, as autocrats and populist extremists seize the levers of power. In China, President Xi Jinping has made himself an emperor. In Russia, the modern czar Vladimir Putin leverages the West's social media and free speech to deepen our divisions and interfere in our elections. Poland, Hungary, and Turkey are all devolving into autocracies; far-right populist parties are on the rise throughout Europe. "Twenty-five years ago, I didn't have a sense or a theory about how democracies can go backward," Fukuyama recently told The Washington Post. "And I think that they clearly can." In a new book, The People vs. Democracy, political scientist Yascha Mounk explains what Fukuyama failed to foresee. Center-left and center-right mainstream parties, Mounk says, have failed to address the powerful economic and cultural ties created by globalization, immigration, and multi-ethnic societies. Faith in democracy is waning; the belief that the system is "rigged" is growing. That's opened the door to nationalist strongmen who claim to speak for "the people," with simplistic solutions to their complaints. If democracies and mainstream parties do not adapt, Mounk warns, the center will not hold; authoritarians on n both the Left and Right may carve up the world. Here and abroad, the threat to free speech, individual rights, and the rule of law is very real. The history is still being written, and it's a real page-turner. *(William Falk, in The Week magazine, March 16, 2018)***

**Every time history repeats itself the price goes up. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**History is a gallery of pictures in which there are few originals and many copies. *(Alexis de Tocqueville)***

**Most history is just gossip that has grown old gracefully. *(Sydney J. Harris, Field Newspaper Syndicate)***

**Nelson says to his friend: “My Grampa knows a lot about history, don’t you, Grampa?” Grandpa: “Mm.” Nelson says to his friend: “He told me that he’s forgotten more about history than most people will ever know. Go ahead, ask him something.” Boy: “Who was the 13th President?” Grandpa: “I forgot.” Nelson: “See!” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**A page of history is worth a volume of logic. (Oliver Wendell Holmes)**

**That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach. (*Aldous Huxley*)**

**History is principally the inaccurate narration of events which ought not to have happened. *(Ernest Albert Hooten, anthropologist)***

**In my high-school years, I had always consideredhistory a boring subject. But at the conclusion of one college American-history class, the professor – a stately dignified older man – announced that we would reenact the Battle of Bunker Hill. The next day found us all out on the campus, running up and down hills behind our distinguished leader, picking up acorns and pelting them at one another, and shouting, “The British are coming! The British are coming! Fight for freedom!” I’ve loved history ever since. *(Sylvia Veal, in Reader’s Digest)***

**You know why history has to keep repeating itself? Nobody listens!" *(Country Extra magazine)***

**All history is gossip. *(John F. Kennedy)***

**We learn from history that we do not learn from history. *(Georg W. F. Hegel)***

**Legend remains victorious in spite of history. *(Sarah Barnhardt)***

**Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter. *(Chinua Achebe)***

**History is merely a list of surprises. It can only prepare us to be surprised yet again. *(Kurt Vonnegut)***

**Longing on a large scale is what makes history. *(Don Delillo)***

## If you think you have it tough, read history books*. (Bill Maher)*

**Might does not make right; it only makes history. *(Jim Fiebig, NANA)***

**All history is modern history. *(Wallace Stevens, American poet and author)***

**History teaches us never to trust history. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**The final lesson of history: “Let’s never go back there again!” *(Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher)***

**There is no history without people, any more than there is sound without hearing. *(Edna Ferber, novelist)***

**Someday history will write of our era, and the biggest scandal will be the thing we accepted in our leaders: chronic and endemic selfishness. History will be hard on us for that. *(Peggy Noonan, columnist, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**Political history is far too criminal and pathological to be a fit subject of study for the young. Children should acquire their heroes and villains from fiction. *(W. H. Auden)***

**History is the record of an encounter between character and circumstance. *(Donald Creighton, in Towards the Discovery of Canada)***

**History should not be written to make the present generation feel good but to remind us that human affairs are complicated. *(Margaret MacMillan)***

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**History does not repeat itself. Historians repeat each other. *(Arthur Balfour, British statesman)***

**Every time history repeats itself. the price doubles. *(The Lion)***

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**Little boy, studying history book, to father: “Sure, you were good at it. You were there for most of it.” *(Herman, Universal Press Syndicate)***

**History is a symphony of echoes heard and unheard. It is a poem with events as verses. *(Charles Angoff, journalist)***

**What experience and history teach us is that people and governments have never learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it. *(G. W. F. Hegel)***

**If there's anything that a study of history tells us, it's that things can get worse, and also that when people thought they were in end times, they weren't. *(Neil Gaiman)***

**Historians are like deaf people who go on answering questions that no one has asked them. *(Leo Tolstoy)***

**The trouble with history is that there are too many people involved. *((Nick Hornby, novelist)***

**The only thing new in this world is the history you haven't read yet. *(President Harry Truman)***

**It is not worthwhile to try to keep history from repeating itself, for man's character will always make the preventing of the repetitions impossible. *(Mark Twain)***

**The weak have the purest sense of history: Anything can happen. *(Elizabeth Hardwick, essayist)***

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe. *(H. G. Wells)*

**As soon as histories are properly told there is no more need of romances. *(Walt Whitman)***

**The historian will tell you what happened. The novelist will tell you what it felt like. *(E. L. Doctorow, in Time magazine)***

**Nothing has really happened until it has been recorded. *(Virginia Woolf, English author and critic)***

**The worst thing about history is that every time it repeats itself the price goes up. *(The American Legion magazine)***

**If every nation gets the government it deserves, every generation writes the history which corresponds with its view of the world. *(Elizabeth Janeway, American author)***

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