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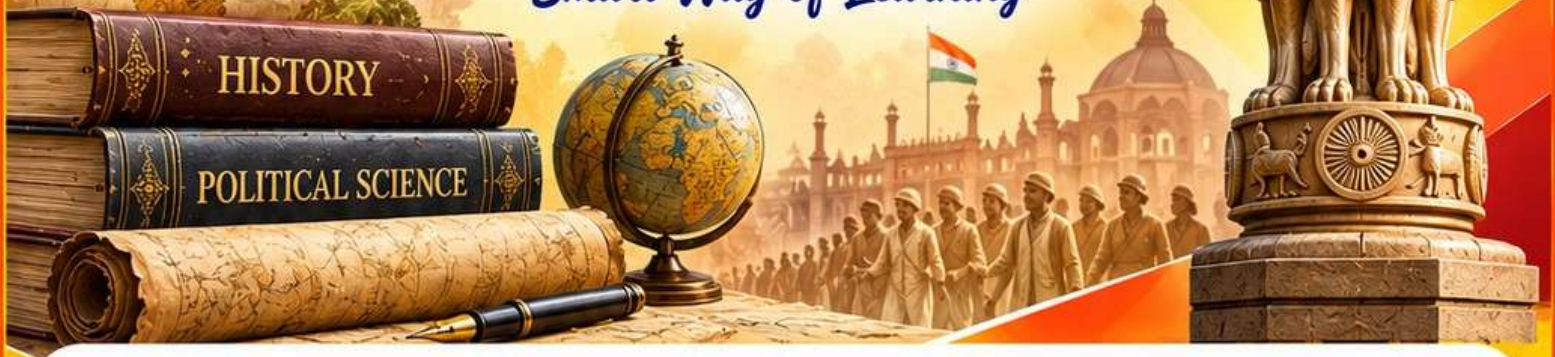
NOTES

HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

ENGLISH MEDIUM

(MAHARASHTRA BOARD)

Smart Way of Learning



- Chapterwise Notes
- Important Points
- Diagrams & Tables
- Key Personalities & Events
- Exam Oriented

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Success Key Test Series

CHAPTER 1
HISTORIOGRAPHY : DEVELOPMENT IN THE WEST
SHORT NOTES



Learning Objectives

- To understand the meaning and scope of Historiography.
- To study the historical research method.
- To know the difference between scientific method and historical method.
- To identify the disciplines useful in historical research.

- Historical research, writing and studies are carried out with an objective of understanding the chronology of the past events and their interconnections. This is a continuous process.
- In physical and natural sciences empirical method (laboratory method of experiments and observation) is used to verify the available knowledge and formulate laws that remain true irrespective of time and space. These can be tested and proved repeatedly.
- In historical research such method cannot be used because we were not present in the past and events cannot be recreated. Also, laws that remain true irrespective of time and space cannot be formulated in history.

Key Definitions

Historiography : The critical writing of history based on analysis and interpretation of sources.

Historian : A person who collects, examines and interprets historical sources and writes the history in a meaningful way.

Historical Research Method

1. Formulating relevant questions in view of the historical references
2. Formulating hypotheses
3. Critically examining of various sources of history
4. Examining relevant references of the available historical information
5. Collecting historical information, highlighting the processes that lead to historical transitions, carrying out comparative analysis
6. Understanding the references regarding time and space of the given historical events and also various conceptual frameworks used in historical research
7. Writing of Historical narrative

Salient Features of Historical Research

- It begins with the formation of relevant questions.
- These questions are anthropocentric – they are about the deeds of members of ancient human societies of a particular period.
- It does not suggest any interrelation between the Divine and human deeds.
- Its answers are supported by reliable evidence.
- It presents a graph of mankind's journey with the help of past human deeds.

Disciplines Useful in Historical Research

- Archaeology – study of material remains.
- Archival Science – study of manuscripts and documents.
- Manuscriptology – study of manuscripts.
- Epigraphy – study of inscriptions.
- Palaeography / Analysis of lettering style – study of old scripts and handwriting.
- Linguistics – study of language.
- Numismatics – study of coins.
- Genealogy – study of lineage and family trees.

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1. TRADITION OF HISTORIOGRAPHY

- Ancient societies did not have a formal tradition of writing history.
- However, they were well aware of their past.
- They preserved stories of ancestors and heroic deeds for future generations.
- These traditional means are considered important sources of history in modern historiography.

Traditional Means of Preserving History



Cave Paintings
Drawings on cave walls showing hunting, dances, rituals, etc.



Story-Telling
Stories of brave deeds and ancestors were told orally.



Songs and Ballads
Songs and ballads kept the memory of events alive.



Oral Traditions
Knowledge passed from one generation to another through spoken words.

2. EARLIEST EVIDENCE OF RECORDING HISTORY



Earliest Inscription (Louvre Museum, France)

Do You Know?

- The tradition of recording historical events can be traced to the **Sumer Civilization of Mesopotamia.**
- The earliest inscription dates back to approximately **4500 BCE.**
- It records a battle fought between two kingdoms.
- It is presently displayed in the **Louvre Museum, France.**

3. MODERN HISTORIOGRAPHY

Modern Historiography : History writing based on scientific principles. It is objective, evidence-based and critically examines sources before presenting the historical narrative.

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERN HISTORIOGRAPHY

1 Scientific Approach

It begins with the formation of relevant questions based on scientific principles.

2 Anthropocentric Nature

It focuses on human activities and experiences. It does not establish any relation between divine and human deeds.

3 Reliable Evidence

The answers to the questions are supported by reliable and authentic evidence.

4 Human Progress

It presents a graph of mankind's journey and progress through the help of past human deeds.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The writing of critical historical narrative is known as **Historiography.**
- Ancient societies preserved their past through cave paintings, storytelling, songs and ballads.
- These traditional means are important sources of history in modern historiography.
- The earliest evidence of recording historical events belongs to the **Sumer Civilization of Mesopotamia.**
- The earliest inscription dates back to approximately **4500 BCE** and is preserved in the **Louvre Museum, France.**
- The term "History" was first used by the Greek historian **Herodotus.**
- Herodotus wrote the famous book **"The Histories".**
- Modern historiography developed from the tradition of Greek historical writings.

MEMORY CODE

- **S** → Scientific Approach
- **A** → Anthropocentric Nature
- **R** → Reliable Evidence
- **H** → Human Progress

REMEMBER THIS

"Modern historiography is evidence-based history writing centred on human activities and their progress."

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1. DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE IN EUROPE

- By the 18th century C.E., Europe had made remarkable progress in philosophy and science.
- Scholars believed that social and historical truths could also be studied scientifically.
- Greater importance was given to objectivity in historiography.
- European universities gradually moved away from discussions centred only on Divine phenomena.
- In 1737 C.E., Göttingen University (Germany) established an independent Department of History.
- Later, many German universities became important centres of historical studies.



Göttingen University, Germany (Established in 1737 C.E.)

Definition

Scientific Perspective

Studying historical events objectively using evidence, logic and critical analysis.

2. HERODOTUS (5th Century BCE)



- Greek historian of the 5th Century BCE.
- First used the term "History".
- Wrote the famous book "The Histories".
- Greek historical writings became the roots of modern historiography.

Known as : Father of History

3. RENÉ DESCARTES (1596–1650)



- Insisted on critically examining historical documents.
- Emphasised verification before accepting any fact as true.
- Advocated a scientific method of research.

Famous Work

Discourse on the Method

Golden Rule

"Never accept anything as true till all grounds of doubt are excluded."

4. VOLTAIRE (1694–1778)



- Original name : François-Marie Arouet.
- French thinker and historian.
- Stressed that history should include:
  - ☑ Social traditions
  - ☑ Trade
  - ☑ Economy
  - ☑ Agriculture
  - ☑ Everyday life

He expanded the scope of history beyond kings and wars and focused on the life of ordinary people.

Voltaire is regarded as the Founder of Modern Historiography.

5. QUICK COMPARISON

Scholar	Period / Century	Country	Major Contribution
Herodotus	5th Century BCE	Greece	Father of History; first used the term "History"; author of "The Histories".
René Descartes	17th Century	France	Emphasised doubt, critical examination and scientific method of research.
Voltaire	18th Century	France	Founder of Modern Historiography; broadened the scope of history.

6. IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Scientific thinking transformed historiography in Europe.
- Göttingen University established the first independent Department of History.
- René Descartes promoted doubt and verification.
- Voltaire broadened the scope of history.
- Historical writing gradually became objective and evidence-based.

7. MEMORY TRICK

- **D** → Descartes → Doubt before acceptance
- **V** → Voltaire → Wider view of history
- **H** → Herodotus → History and "The Histories"

8. REVISION STRIP

"Modern historiography developed through scientific thinking, critical examination, and a broader understanding of human life."

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1. GEORG WILHELM FRIEDRICH HEGEL (1770–1831)



- German philosopher.
- Historical reality should be presented logically.
- Timeline of historical events indicates progress.
- Historical interpretation changes with new evidence.
- Proved that historical methods are not inferior to scientific methods.

Famous Books
- Reason in History
- Encyclopaedia of Philosophical Sciences

DIALECTICS

A method of analysis based on opposites.

THESIS (Statement) → ANTITHESIS (Opposite) → SYNTHESIS (Combination)

Remember
- ✓ True – False
- ✓ Good – Bad

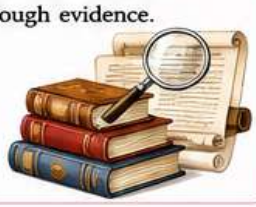
Understanding opposites helps understand reality.

2. LEOPOLD VON RANKE (1795–1886)

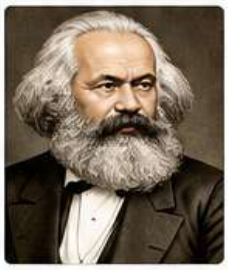


- Emphasised critical historical research.
- Stressed the importance of original documents.
- Every document related to an event should be examined carefully.
- Opposed imaginative narration.
- Believed historical truth could be reached through evidence.

Famous Books
- The Theory and Practice of History
- The Secret of World History



3. KARL MARX (1818–1883)



CLASS THEORY
- History is about living people.
- Human relations depend upon fundamental needs, means of production and ownership of resources.
- Unequal access to resources creates class divisions.
- Class divisions lead to class struggle.
- Human history is the history of class struggle.

Famous Book
- Das Kapital

4. ANNALES SCHOOL

A French school of historiography that widened the scope of history.



Important Features
- Started in France during the 20th century.
- History is not limited to kings and wars.
- Studies everyday life of people.



5. FEMINIST HISTORIOGRAPHY



Simone de Beauvoir

Reconstruction of history from the perspective of women.

- Influenced by Simone de Beauvoir.
- Included women in historical narratives.
- Challenged male-dominated history.
- Focused on employment, trade unions, institutions and family life.
- After 1990, women were portrayed as an independent social class.

6. MICHEL FOUCAULT (1926–1984)



- French historian of the 20th century.
- Wrote Archaeology of Knowledge.
- Opposed merely chronological arrangement of events.
- Emphasised explaining historical transitions instead of just describing events.
- Introduced the method – "Archaeology of Knowledge".

Areas Studied


Psychological Disorders


Medicine


Prison Administration

7. SCHOLARS AT A GLANCE

Scholar	Famous Idea / Book
Hegel	Dialectics
Leopold von Ranke	Original Documents
Karl Marx	Class Theory (Das Kapital)
Simone de Beauvoir	Feminist Historiography
Michel Foucault	Archaeology of Knowledge

8. CHAPTER QUICK REVISION

Historiography (Writing of history)
↓
Scientific Perspective in Europe
↓
Notable Scholars (Thinkers & Historians)
↓
New Schools of Thought (Annales, Feminist, etc.)
↓
Expanding Scope of History (Beyond Kings and Wars)

9. IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Hegel used the Dialectical Method.
- Ranke stressed the use of original documents.
- Karl Marx explained history through Class Theory.
- Annales School widened the scope of history.
- Feminist Historiography highlighted women's role.
- Michel Foucault introduced "Archaeology of Knowledge".

REMEMBER THIS

"Historiography continuously evolves as historians adopt new perspectives to understand human society and its past."

