



# History: An Introduction to Theory, Method, and Practice

By Peter Claus, John Marriott



**History: An Introduction to Theory, Method, and Practice** By Peter Claus, John Marriott

Why should history students care about theory? What relevance does it have to the "proper" role of the historian?

Historiography and historical theory are often perceived as complex subjects, which many history students find frustrating and difficult. Philosophical approaches, postmodernism, anthropology, feminism or Marxism can seem arcane and abstract and students often struggle to apply these ideas in practice.

Starting from the premise that historical theory and historiography are fascinating and exciting topics to study, Claus and Marriott guide the student through the various historical theories and approaches in a balanced, comprehensive and engaging way. Packed with intriguing anecdotes from all periods of history and supported by primary extracts from original historical writings, *History: An Introduction to Theory, Method and Practice* is the student-friendly text which demystifies the subject with clarity and verve.

Key features -

- Written in a clear and witty way.
- Presents a balanced view of the subject, rather than the polemical view of one historian.
- Comprehensive - covers the whole range of topics taught on historiography and historical theory courses in suitable depth.
- Full of examples from different historical approaches - from social, cultural and political history to gender, economic and world history
- Covers a wide chronological breadth of examples from the ancient and medieval worlds to the twentieth century.
- Shows how students can engage with the theories covered in each chapter and apply them to their own studies via the "In Practice" feature at the end of each chapter.
- Includes "Discussion Documents" - numerous extracts from the primary historiographical texts for students to read and reflect upon.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"A comprehensive introductory guide to the nature of historiography ... clearly written and set out ...it will be welcomed both by teachers and by their students."

Steve Rigby, *University of Manchester, UK*

"Students (and their teachers) will be grateful for this book. From Herodotus to postmodernism and internet History, Peter Claus and John Marriott's survey of how the human past has been studied and written about is impressive in both its range and its clarity. It can be dipped into when needed, while its totality provides a splendid overview of the richness and diversity that exist within the writing of History."

Bryan Ward-Perkins, *Trinity College Oxford, UK*

"Claus and Marriott introduce students to different aspects of historiography and methodology in a simple, appealing and engaging manner. This is a good book to support the study of History at university level."

Dr Xavier Guégan, *Newcastle University, UK*

#### From the Back Cover

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studies via the "*In Practice*" feature at the end of each chapter.

- Includes "*Discussion Documents*" - numerous extracts from the primary historiographical texts for students to read and reflect upon.

*"History: An introduction to theory, method and practice* is accessible, interesting and inclusive. At a time when history has come to include so many approaches and sources, this is a also welcome guide to how historians understand their traditions and their roles in contemporary culture."

**Professor Miri Rubin, Queen Mary, University of London**

"This is a comprehensive introductory guide to the nature of historiography... It will be welcomed both by teachers and by their students."

**Steve Rigby, Emeritus Professor of Medieval Social and Economic History, University of Manchester**

"Students (and their teachers) will be grateful for this book. From Herodotus to postmodernism and internet history, Peter Claus and John Marriott's survey of how the human past has been studied and written about is impressive in both its range and its clarity. It can be dipped into when needed, while its totality provides a splendid overview of the richness and diversity that exist within the writing of History."

**Dr Bryan Ward-Perkins, Trinity College Oxford**

#### About the Author

Dr Peter Claus is a Senior Research Fellow in History at Pembroke College, Oxford. He has researched and written about social networks, social investigation and cultural forms in the City of London and the wider metropolis in the modern period. His particular commitment to widening participation and teaching strategies that use the archive as a way of enthusing students from non-traditional backgrounds has led to a more recent interest in the historical role of education and training in the development of public policy.

Dr John Marriott is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of East London, where he remains involved in the work of the Raphael Samuel History Centre. His research interests are in the nexus between London and empire in the modern era on which he has written widely. Most recently, his *Beyond the Tower: A History of East London*, published by Yale University Press, appeared in 2011. Last year he emigrated to Yorkshire where he is struggling to restore an early Georgian townhouse.

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**Terry White:**

Exactly why? Because this History: An Introduction to Theory, Method, and Practice is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such remarkable way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book include such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were being you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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