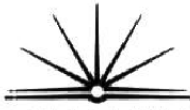


History is an organic process, a continuity of related events, inexorable, yet not inevitable, a study of the past in order to describe or explain it. Historians reconstruct the past in order to fit in with their own social and political ideology, emblematic of their context. It is for this reason historians reconstruct the past, not only by their use of evidence but how they impose their own moral standards onto the past, generating a history valuable to the present. Historians seek to provide an objective truth, an account that would retell events exactly as they occurred and would devoid of any residue of the historian's own predilections and biases. ~~The~~ However the agenda of the historian, evident by the facts a



historian chooses to write determine the nature of the history produced.

"What is History?" produced by Professor Alun Munslow in 2001, Herodotus and Venerable Bede ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{Geopold von Ranke} ~~Leopold von Ranke~~ illustrate the ^{changing} approaches to the construction to history and the positive and negative impact this has on interpretation and representation.

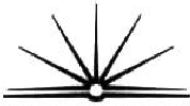
"What is History" is a source written in post modern times, which has the advantage of the past schools of thought so that a complete and understandable history can be developed. It ~~the~~ raises the issue of "consequences" that arise as a result of a historian who uses "processes ~~and~~ in the past" which are then turned into a "narrative we call history".

The main consideration ~~for~~ concerning of the
"observing the truth" is the construction
produced by the historian as this ^{in turn} distorts " "
What history is, what historians do,
and it reflects upon the objectivity
and truth seeking nature of the
exercise."

Herodotus for example, from the
classical period, the birth of
historiography wrote in the times
of the Greek stretching from the
~~period~~ invasion of Greece by the
Persian empire to the Peloponnesian
war between Greek states. He
was focused on identifying the
uneasy relationship between Greeks
and non Greeks and identifying
himself as a Greek, an identifiable
group with a shared culture,
religious system and custom.

Herodotus's book The Histories explores diplomatic and military history. Herodotus, being the first historian did not have the advantage of calling upon previous historians and written archives. Hence his sources were oral sources, which were meant to be read aloud to an audience, such that of a performance as he was writing in the shadow of Homer and epic poetry.

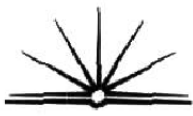
Using oral sources, ~~posed problems~~ to the construction of the history Herodotus ~~relied~~^{relied} on local oral tradition rather than eye witness accounts. When his sense of reality led him to question information collected he would seek further opinions either to corroborate or challenge his research.



It has been suggested he was unscrupulous in his collection of sources and occasionally "invented witnesses" to make his argument more plausible and well supported, exemplified by the numerous examples of convenient corroborative evidence.

Hence it can be argued Herodotus fabricated witnesses in order to support a tale he heard and enjoyed and wanted to ~~###~~ create a "truth". However this is an anachronistic judgement and it must be noted that an evaluation must be rooted in Herodotus context and we should not condemn him due to shift in societal value, philosophy and context.

In the Greek world speeches added pace and drama, ~~they~~

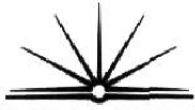


providing insight into personal motivations of the individual. Furthermore it should be noted that during Herodotus' collection of oral sources he was particular about his informants, with the common incidence of the "great family" and "priest of holy places". Hence Herodotus was illustrating the perspective of higher class citizens, the rich and the aristocrats, as they had the power to influence others.

Herodotus's composition was that of a ring composition, a return at the end of a section to a subject mentioned earlier. Hence there is this ~~idea of a~~ sense of rhetorical development at many levels where Herodotus would provide

to
~~the different differing~~ support a particular side of history where their was conflicting accounts.

Herodotus hence was a more central, motivated by the wonder and power of Greek unity. He used myth and legend to retell an event but was also capable of sophisticated analysis. Supernatural causation hence should be considered when interpreting Herodotus' work but it should not be concluded that it distorted. The Histories has his primary explanation as to why things happen is rooted in human behaviour and psychology. Thus despite the common acceptance of the role of gods in human



activities, his structure was based on human relationship.

The purpose of Herodotus's history was to celebrate and commemorate the deeds of the renown so that their reputation would not fade and die. He hence provides us with insight into a cross-section of his social standing through descriptions of manners, myths, customs and geography. The primary role of his piece is to display through a detailed analysis of an event, a network of personal relationships.

Hence on the surface Herodotus's purpose was not clear.

When considering the construction of Herodotus work we must take into account the interpretation and perspective, identity, background and aim and purpose of ~~the~~ the historian as this in turn leads to different political and social judgements and conclusions.

In contrast Aurelianus Bede was a Christian historian from the medieval context, ^{an English} ~~an~~ ^(672-735 AD in circa) historian and theologian, who was devoted to study, ~~and~~ and whose work can be classified under 3 categories: ~~the~~ historical, scientific, and theological.

Bede was an Anglo Saxon monk and a writer in post Roman Dark Ages ~~whose~~ developing



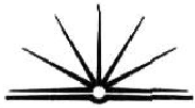
biblical commentaries ^{which later} became the major source for the Anglo Saxon Chronicle. He believed he was a teacher and a propagandist of Christian orthodoxy in a society where ~~not~~ ~~not~~ not everyone was fully converted.

Bede collected his resources from the best available resources that available ~~from~~ up until 735 BC where he distinguished between what he believed to be fact or rumour and tradition.

"A mastery of historical technique, incomparable from its time".

Hence Bede displayed the allegorical technique of interpretation and was by modern standards credulous relating to the miracles.

"He was mischievous, in a ~~poor~~ literary and intellectual environment



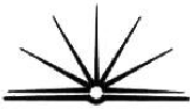
so far distant from our own that it is a risky business to be calling him a historian at all". However this is similar to that of Herodotus detailing the dangers of an anachronistic judgement as an evaluation must be rooted in the historian's context.

Like Herodotus, Bede revealed his awareness in his errors and own feelings, ^{described as 'sermo humilis'} displaying a willingness to display ~~that~~ truth. He did not seem to use history as a political manual, rather as a means to teach Christ's Gospel distilled by the Roman Church.

Hence Christianity must be considered when interpreting the Ecclesiastical History of English

People as their is the references to miracles, an aid to reveal the pagan and faith of God. It hence eliminates total objectivity however it must be noted that like The Histories, it is a product of its time, reflecting the values and attitudes symbols of this era.

During a time where the Church and the state were intimately tied, Bede had no means to isolate himself from the secular considerations. His work is hence a product of the contemporary political situation. He aimed to further the Christian faith by means of the rhetoric, detailing ~~great~~ great deeds.

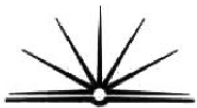


as an excellent
stylist

Bede displayed impressive clarity, who
as he called upon other historians
familiar to the rhetoric to
evangelise and persuade the
audience of a political or
moral truth. He was hence
not detached nor objective
as a result of the style of
his work. However he did
display authenticity in his
ability to provide details on
the source, ~~and~~ type of source
and names of authorities.

More the construction of history
"has never been static" and
~~that~~ by the example of Leopold
von Ranke, the professionalisation
of history in the post
Enlightenment period/Industrial
period it can be seen the

* * * Von Ranke's style aims to eliminate theories, prejudices and bias where the facts will emerge from the source before the general areas of the topic are considered. Old sources were the key to retell events exactly as they occurred. ~~these~~ ^{truth mode} By following the four Rankean principles of fact over concept, centrality of politics, ~~equal~~ equity in concern to all historical events and objectivity of historical truth the pro Prussian and conservative perspective is realised.



Shift to the belief that history should be studied in its own terms, not through the present way of thinking or stepping ^{stone} to a subsequent history. ^{by means of the style "historicism"} History is ~~not~~ ^{not} progressive, rather unique ^{to} each age, ^{by means of} ~~the~~ an appropriate analysis of the value system in each era.

"History has witnessed many shifts and turns in the way it is thought and undertaken," that is the shift in perspective, methodology, context, background and aim/purpose. As indicated in the source, the theory that knowledge is gained from experience or observation, it is the truth ~~that~~ of the past



as the history "represents it rather than finds it." Collection of sources plays a role, however the style of the history developed influences interpretation and perspective. History is what historians "tell us what happened". Thus the facts of the past could and can ~~be~~ still be ~~so~~ configured in a multitude of configurations which in turn lead to different political and social judgements and conclusions. For this reason approaches to history change over time, a result of the time in which a historian makes available their facts as this affects what is said. Hence all history is ~~not~~ relevant however it is the responsibility of the individual to

determine which facts account
the nature of the history
produced. Furthermore there
are numerous positive and
negative impacts as a
result of these historical
considerations, which in
turn impact on the interpretation
of the past. ^{Thus} in order to discover
the truth of the past, we must
consider the emphasis and
inference indicated by each
historian emblematic of their
context.

(Context, background, perspective, interpretation, aim and purposes)