



How to Teach History with Wes Callihan

Lesson 8: Major Historians Teachers Should Know

Outline:

Major Historians Every Teacher of History Should Know

Greeks

- **Herodotus:** “The father of history.”
 - First major Greek historian who writes of the Persian War.
 - He gives a lot of background information.
 - He gives a narrative of cause and effect that shows clearly what led to the Persian War.
- **Thucydides**
 - He tells the story of the next set of wars in Greek history, the Peloponnesian Wars.
 - This book is written as an essay to be treasured for all time, for those who understand that the future will be like the past because human nature does not change.
- **Xenophon**
 - He tells the story of the completion of the Peloponnesian War.
 - He gives a picture of Socrates.
 - He writes the life of Cyrus of the Persian kingdom.
- **Polybius**
 - He tells the story of the rise of the Roman power in the old Greek world.

Romans

- **Livy**
 - He lives during the reign of Caesar Augustus.
 - He tells the story of the Roman world from the beginning to his own day.
 - He wrote a massive history, most of which has been lost.
 - History has a moral purpose. History is to give us examples (vice and virtue).
- **Julius Caesar**
 - He tells the story of his conquest of Gaul.
 - He tells the story of how he led the legions of Gaul.
 - He is fairly accurate. He was very eloquent.
- **Tacitus**
 - Along with Livy, he is of the greatest Roman historian.



- He tells the story of the century of the emperors (a dark, depressing story).
- He is a master storyteller.
- **Plutarch**
 - He is famous for writing short biographies, character sketches of eminent Greeks and Romans.
 - He writes expressly for shaping souls in virtue.
 - William Shakespeare depended heavily on Plutarch's *Lives*.
- **Suetonius**
 - He writes the lives of the twelve Caesars.
 - He writes biographies following a particular pattern.
- **Strabo**
 - He describes the geography as well as the history.
 - He gives a picture of how to visualize the landscape of the narrative.

Medieval World

- **Eusebius**
 - He tells the story of the first 300 years of Christian history.
 - He says he is telling the story of great wars of spiritual warriors of the death of martyrs.
 - His themes are the growth the church and heresy, which shapes doctrine.
- **Procopius**
 - He wrote in the Byzantine Empire.
 - He wrote a story about the building projects of Justinian.
 - He wrote a book about Justinian and his wife's vice.
 - These two views gives us a way to see how two different perspectives can be compared.
- **Bede**
 - He tells the story of the history of England from the time of the Romans to his day.
 - Bede's purpose is to tell the story of the church in England.
 - A.D. came about because of Bede's book.
 - Bede is a Christian, showing us how to do Christian history.
- **Einhart**
 - Einhart gives us the biography of Charlemagne.
 - Charlemagne is depicted as having vice and virtue.
- **Aser**
 - He writes about the life of King Alfred the Great.
 - King Alfred the Great does for England what Charlemagne had done for France.
- **Henry of Huntington**
 - He wrote histories of England.
 - Depicts history with a moral purpose.
 - Learn that the nation is shaped by people who pursue virtue.



Crusades

Renaissance to the Present

- William Bradford
 - He writes histories of colonial America.
- Thomas Carlyle
 - He writes a history of the French Revolution.
- Edward Gibbon
 - He tells the story of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire.
- William Prescott
 - He tells the history of Latin America.
- Phillip Schaff
 - Christian historian
- Jaroslav Pelikan
 - Church historian
 - He focuses on the development of Christian doctrine.
 - He shows how to present information clearly.