

STUDY MATERIAL FOR B.A HISTORY
ELEMENTS OF HISTORIOGRAPHY
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UNIT	CONTENT	PAGE Nr
I	MEANING AND SCOPE OF HISTORY	02
II	THEORY OF CAUSATION	14
III	REPUTED HISTORIANS	16
IV	INDIAN HISTORIANS	22
V	HISTORICAL RESEARCH	26

UNIT - I

MEANING AND SCOPE OF HISTORY

Meaning and Scope of History

History (from Greek ἱστορία - historia, meaning "inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation") is the discovery, collection, organization, and presentation of information about past events. History can also mean the period of time after writing was invented. Scholars who write about history are called historians.

Historical studies attempt to provide information and understanding of past historical, legal and policy events.

The scope of History is vast; it is the story of man in relation to totality of his behavior. It means the breadth, comprehensiveness, variety and extent of learning experiences, provided by the study. Universal history of mankind, depicting man's achievements in every field of life-political, economic, social, cultural, scientific, technological, religious and artistic etc., and at various levels-local, regional, national, and international.

It starts with the past; makes present its sheet-anchor and points to the future. Events like wars, revolutions, rise and fall of empires, fortunes and misfortunes of great empire builders as well as the masses in general are all the subject matter of history.

Ever Expanding Scope

The scope or range of history has been ever changing and ever widening. There was a time when history was a collection and transmission of fables, folktales, legends and mythologies. It was based on imagination, memory and tradition. It may be called "Folk history" The Greek historians were the first to delimit the scope of history. **Herodotus** wrote about the wars between the Greeks and the Persians, the Greco-Persian wars. **Thucydides** dealt with the epic struggle between the City-states of Greece, the Peloponnesian war. The scope of history was thus limited mainly to the description of wars between two countries or struggles between city-states.

The Roman historians inherited the Greek tradition and wrote a new kind of history by expanding its scope by narrating the Roman conquest of the world. History was conceived as a form of thought having universal value. "With this larger conception of the field of history comes a more precise conception of history itself.

The Medieval Christian historians confined themselves strictly to the theological interpretation of historical events. Human actions were considered to be the manifestation of the Divine Will. Though the Christian historiography represented the universal character it was **essentially the centric**.

The Renaissance writers restored the classical humanistic approach and reoriented historical writing. They placed man in the centre of historical writing and extended the scope of history by their secular approach. It was **ethnocentric**. During the seventeenth century, when Natural Science reigned supreme, history followed the lead given by the Renaissance and freed itself from the mesh of medieval thought and found its proper function. Inspired and impelled by the irresistible scientific spirit the historians were engaged in the reconstruction of the past on the basis of reliable and verifiable data. **Bacon, Locke, Hume, Berkely, Descarte** and **Vico** were the propounders of this new approach to history which provided a scientific dimension to the scope of history. Eighteenth century was an age of Enlightenment. The Enlightenment historians staged a determined revolt against the might of institutional religion and its theological interpretation of history. They endeavoured to further secularize the writing of

history. Following the footsteps of **Voltaire**, the Crusader against Christianity, they improved upon the method of historical research and writing.

Montesquieu and Gibbon were the outstanding spokesmen of this mighty movement of secularization of history. The former studied the differences between nations and the latter analyzed the cause of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire.

Nineteenth century historiography, while retaining the secular-rational approach to history, further widened the scope of history. **Kant** convincingly argued that man, as a rational being, must necessarily have an historical process to live in. He viewed history as progress towards rationality. **Hegel** raised history to a higher level by including in its scope philosophical interpretation of historical happenings. His philosophy of history widened the range of history; it traced the progress of mankind from primitive times to the present day. Universal history was born. **Marx** improved upon the Hegelian dialectic and attempted an economic interpretation of history. Marxian Concept of Dialectic Materialism immediately became immensely popular. It left an indelible influence on the principle and practice of historical writing. Twentieth century may be described as an Age of Synthesis. Streams of Enlightenment, Secularism, Rationalism, Romanticism, Positivism and Dialectical Materialism flowed into the ocean of Idealism. Historians like **Spengler, Sorokin and Toynbee** sought to study historical changes and discerned predicable patterns in them. **Toynbee** is an unrivalled representative of the synthetic idealistic historiography. Backed by an incredible mass of historical data he has surveyed and studied the story of mankind in its best, never attempted before nor improved since then In Toynbee the scope of history its meridian.

Nature of History

The nature of history has to do with the entire process of historical studies. This includes a clear definition of history, its laudable objectives, its presented facts and evidences and its sources to prove its authenticity. History, by its very nature, tells us more than just about the past; it argues for an ideology or a world view. History involves explanation and the study of the inter-connection between events. Some other social sciences or humanities subjects are differentiated from history by the way it is studied and written.

Purpose of History

The purpose of history has been looked upon differently from historian to historian and age to age. During the age of the classical civilization of Greece and Rome a scientific purpose was imparted to history. It was looked upon as a branch of study, based upon enquiry and analysis. The medieval church restricted the purpose of history to the explanation of how the divine will expressed itself in the human actions. After the dawn of modern times attitude towards history again changed and rational approach received added importance. The purpose of history is viewed in a narrow sense as well as broad sense. In a limited sense, it is a political history, military history and the like. In a broad sense, it is the history of the universe.

Definitions of History

History has been defined differently by different scholars. A simple and working definition is that History is the study of Human's past.

Aristotle: "History is an account of unchanging past".

E.H. Carr: "History as an link between past and present, it is an unending dialogue between the past and present".

Thomas Carlyle: "History is nothing but the biography of great man".

G.J. Renier, the dauntless Dutch historian, after surveying several definitions of history ventures his own. According to him history is "the story of the experiences of men living in civilized societies".

A.L. Rowse, "History is essentially the record of the life of men in their geographical and their physical environment"

Robin. G. Collingwood, a philosopher turned historian of England, has given a metaphysical twist to the idea of history by his famous dictum: "All history is the history of thought".

Voltaire: "History is a picture of crimes and misfortunes".

Burckhardt: "History is the record of what one age finds worthy of note in another."

Henry Johnson: "History, in its broadest sense, is everything that ever happened."

Smith,V.S: "The value and interest of history depend largely on the degree in which the present is illuminated by the past."

Rapson: "History is a connected account of the course of events or progress of ideas".

Subjects related to History

Central is composite in character and inclusive in its scope. It is a central and pivotal social science. It is indeed a feeding ground for all social sciences and humanities. As H.C.Darby has pointed out history is basic to social sciences as mathematics is to natural science. History is a study of the different facets of human life and experience all social sciences depend on and draw heavily from history. G.M. Trevelyan aptly observed that history is a house in which all subjects dwell. Specialization has broken knowledge into compartments. And yet the relationship between history and other related subjects is rather close and intimate. History is related to geography, politics, economics, sociology, literature, philosophy, biography and the like. Geography and Chronology are the two eyes of History.

History and Geography

Geography is indispensable to fix an historical event in space. "An historian should always have a map at his elbow", said by Renier. The indelible influence of geographical factors on history has always been recognized. The Himalayas and the jungles of Assam have restricted foreign invasions of India to the North and North and acted as a barrier, to a large extent, to close relations between the two fundamental divisions of the country. The broken coastline facilitated ancient Greece to develop her naval power. The Gobi and Mongolian deserts provided security to china. The geography of Egypt has preserved her hoary civilization. The geographical discoveries of the latter middle Ages altered the course of history. Knowledge of the geography of England is necessary to understand the process of industrialization in that country and the consequent colonization. The impact of geographical climate on culture was recognized by Montesquieu, Buckle and Huntington. Anthropol-geography or human geography is concerned with the study of the influence of geographical factors on human behaviour. Though the physical environment is an important factor in human evolution, its influence has been to a great extent overcome by the astonishing achievements of science and technology.

Geography deals with the physical features, climate and population of the earth. Geography is concerned with the surface, geology with the crust. Geographical and Geological factors constantly react upon life, their influence upon historical developments are really propound. Mountains, rivers, winds and rain –fall plays a significant role in the shaping of civilizations and patterns of human behavior. Oceans and mountains help a country's defense against external aggressions and thereby contribute to the development of distinct cultures, distinct languages, and distinct nationalities. History is a narrative about human activity; geography is a description about natural objects. Historical geography is as much part of history as it is that of geography.

History and Political science

Politics is concerned with one aspect of history, namely organized state and its governance. History provides necessary raw material for political science and historical knowledge is necessary for proper understanding of the evolution of political institutions and

exercise of political power. History provides innumerable examples of organized states like ancient Greece, Rome, India and China and the post-Renaissance nation states. Plato and Aristotle formulated their political ideas and ideals from a study of contemporary political system of the different Italian States and wrote his *The Prince*. Montesquieu, an admirer of British institutions, wrote his *The Spirit of Laws* on the basis of his study of the political systems of the countries of the West as well as the East. Likewise, Rousseau's *Social Contract*, Locke's *Civil Government* and Austin's *Sovereignty* drew heavily on history and in turn exercised a profound influence on the course of history.

Political science has close affinity with history, for it studies political theories and institutions. Knowledge of history is essential for the proper understanding of the evolution of political institutions. Political history which deals with the working of states and their institutions furnish the material needed for analysis and comparison in the study of politics. Sealy has rightly pointed out that History without political science has no fruit and politics without history has no root. Lord Acton observed that History is past politics and politics is present history.

History and Economics

Economic activities of man have a positive correlation with historical developments. History also deals with the economic experience of man from age to age. An understanding of history is a prerequisite for an appreciation of economic engagements of man, the development of economic institutions and the formulation of economic theories which have a bearing on the working of society. Hence, historical source materials concerning matters economic, found in ancient and medieval documents and inscriptions, can be of great help to scholars of past economics. Similarly, present day historians cannot afford to neglect the economic the economic crisis of the thirties and the post-war economic developments all over the world. Karl Marx found unity of history in economic factors. The other political, social, artistic and religious factors have no continuity of their own but reflections of the basic economic fact. Marx considered all developments in history as the result of economic configurations. Seligman propounded the view that ultimately economic factors decide social transformation. It must, however, be recognized that economic interpretation of history is one of the explanations of historical phenomena. History is not all economics. All economically well-developed affluent societies are not alike, nor do they behave in the same way. Economic explanation cannot give a satisfactory answer to this phenomenon. Socio-Cultural-Political-Philosophical factors are as important as economic forces in determining historical events.

History and Sociology

Sociology deals with man as a social being, Man being a social animal, historical interest is limited to certain aspects of his total social dealing. Sociology aims at the scientific study of society. It examines the origin, growth and structure of society in general and the working of general laws. It needs history for analysis and comparison. History needs sociology for knowledge of the principles of social evolution and organization in its attempt to find out the causes of social change. History is the study of the deeds of men living in societies. Sociology is a scientific study of society. History and Sociology were closely inter-linked till Aguste made the latter a separate science. And yet, the interaction between the two subjects remains intimate. Eminent sociologists like Emile Durkheim and Maxweber profoundly influenced history by their studies of social institutions. The sociologists worked on the same historical facts and tried to discover causal connections between them. In other words, sociologists thought scientifically about the same facts about which the historians thought empirically. Whereas the historians were busy discovering and stating the historical facts as they were the sociologists were engaged in interpreting those facts sociologically. Bury raised the question whether history was a mere reservoir of facts accumulated for the use of sociologists or was it

an independent discipline to be studied for its own sake. But, he could not give a satisfactory answer. The sociologists, however, worked on finding general laws of social growth and considered history as primarily a record of social evolution. History acknowledged the contribution made by sociology in so far as it tried to explain the principles of social evolution and causes for social change. When sociology was concerned with the common characteristics between events, history continued to concentrate on the unique features of such events.

E.H.Carr cautioned against the twin dangers sociology was facing, viz., ultra theoretical and ultra-empirical. That is to say, sociology was facing the danger of losing itself in abstract generalization and deducing universal laws from the unique events recorded by history. The other danger was the attempt to confine sociology to technical problems of enumeration and analysis. The sociologists have singularly failed to recognize that every historical society was unique and it was moulded by specific historical antecedents and conditions. Sociology must, like history, concern itself with the relation between the unique and the general. It must also be concerned with the study of social change and development. "The more sociological history becomes, and the more historical sociology becomes, the better for both. Let the frontier between them be kept wide open for two-way traffic "Both History and Sociology are concerned with the causes and consequences of group life of man. History provides concrete data concerning a cross-section of any given society at a particular time as well as the dynamic aspects of social and institutional change. Since history is devoted to describing the behaviour of groups in political, religious, military, diplomatic and economic situations "the accuracy and insight of the historian would be materially enhanced by the knowledge of the elementary principles of sociology" Thus, it will be seen that both History and Sociology are concerned with the study of man in Society and as such they are complementary to each other. Renier goes a step further and says that "Sociology needs history more than history sociology"

History and Literature

The relationship between History and Literature has been close and continuous. There was a time when history itself was considered as a branch of literature. Literature depends on history for themes, plots and characters. Similarly, history relies on literature for evidences required for the reconstruction of the past.

Literary style adds charm and grace to the writing of history. Literature serves as a sure means to make historical themes, conceptions and characters immensely popular. It portrays human beings in action and gives us the author's considered opinion on human character. Essayists, poets and portrait painters do it in their own way. In short, literature stimulates our attention by portraying human problems and assists the growth of human understanding with which history is concerned.

G.M.Trevelyan was unequivocal in his defence of history as a branch of literature. He declared that History's chief but not only value is poetic as a great poem as an epic without beginning or end" History enables the reader to comprehend the historical aspect of literature proper. Trevelyan, who considered history as an epic, asserted that "history and literature cannot be fully comprehended still less fully enjoyed except in connection with one another". For him the value of history was not scientific but educational. By equating history with literature, Trevelyan invited caustic criticism from neo-historians like Barnes, Bury and Ranke. They denied that history was an edifying edition of literature and maintained that history was a distinct discipline by itself. Nevertheless, it is possible, may necessary for the historian to give literary flavour to his writing without sacrificing objectivity.

Herodotus and Thucydides, Macaulay and Trevelyan distinguished themselves as captivating historians by their literary style. Gibbon's History is famous for its literary quality.

Macaulay's literary criticism will be ever remembered by students of history. Shakespeare and Shaw provided literary garb to historical personalities. Novelists like Sir Walter Scott, Alexander Dumas, Victor Hugo, Leo Tolstoy, Charles Dickens, B. Lytton, to mention to a few, not only made history popular but also enabled their readers to understand history better.

History and Philosophy

Philosophy is an inquiry into the nature of human life and thinking; it is a pursuit of wisdom. At particular periods of history particular problems claim the special attention of the philosopher. Certain problems of philosophy are unchanging and certain others are changing, from age to age, according to the special characteristics of human life and thought at the time. In the middle ages, for instance, theology was the focus of philosophical speculation. In the seventeenth century, it was physical science. Since the advent of Descartes and Kant philosophy was profoundly influenced by "a new habit of thinking historically". Philosophers, particularly in Germany and Italy attempted to answer such questions as what is historical thinking. What light does it throw on the problems of philosophy? Consequently, History of Philosophy and Philosophy of History became the two sides of the same coin. In a sense philosophy is common sense with leisure to pursue enquiry into reality. It is a leisured investigation and systematization of any problem presented by life. A philosopher not merely thinks about an object but also thinks about its own thought about that object. In other words philosophy is "thought about thought" since it is reflective in nature. Past by itself is the concern of the historian. The historian "thought about the past is the realm of the psychologist. But the philosopher is interested in knowing the mutual relation between the past by itself and the historian "thought about the past"³⁶. Hence, philosophy is concerned with historical facts, historical interpretation of such facts and in formulating historical laws. The term, philosophy of History" was invented by Voltaire. What he meant by the term was merely critical history. The same term was coined by Hegel and others in the sense of universal history. The Positivists repeated the term to mean the discovery of uniform laws. Thus, the phrase „philosophy of history" has acquired three different meanings, viz., 1)critical study of history; 2)writing of universal history; and 3)formulating uniform laws of history. Thus, the relationship between history and philosophy has become rather intimate and inseparable.

History and Sciences

The related sciences of biology, ethnology and anthropology have greatly assisted in the study of historical phenomenon. Biology is the science of life, while ethnology is the study of racial characteristics of man. Anthropology is the study of physical and mental constitution of man. Knowledge of biology helps in the understanding of similar traits in history, for history tells how with the growth of civilization man overcame the odds and became different from animals. Charles Darwin applied the principle of historical changes to the study of nature and developed the theories of survival of the fittest and the process of evolution. Racial factors too have served as motivation for historical changes and hence the importance of ethnology. Jews and the Anglo Saxons have claimed superiority over the other races. Anthropological studies have assisted historical research in regard to the vanishing tribes like the original inhabitants of America and Australia.

Kinds of History

The human beings and their surroundings interact each other and create varied trends in history. As a result the division of history based upon the contents assumes prominence. History is divided into political history, economic history, cultural history, religious history and social history.

Political History

Political history is a branch of history. Its scope is very vast that it has developed numerous branch of history. Among them are military history, constitutional history, diplomatic history, legal history and administrative history. Seeley went to the extent of saying that "History is past politics; and politics is present history". "Political history is the history of political thought" said by R.G.Collingwood. Political history was once the story of kings, queens, countries and their intrigues, wars, treaties etc. Their deeds and misdeeds mattered most. Conquest was a vital factor in the affairs of a country. People were fascinated by the rise and fall of kings and queens, kingdoms and empires. That aspect of human action within or about or through the state came to be treated as political history. Voltaire, Machiavelli, Guizot, Augustin, Pirenne, Thierry, Macaulay, Droysen, Ranke were all primarily interested in the Political History of states. In fact, Hegel extolled the state as the noblest of God's earthly achievements! All of them placed the State-an artificial phenomenon-in the first rank. But all history is not politics. It is not one-dimensional. The new interest in knowing the experiences of the common people has brought about a welcome change in historical writing.

Economic History

Economic history studies the progress of material welfare of the people through the ages. Engles and Marx started the economic interpretation of history. Economic aspects gained much importance after to that, earlier writings were ignored the economic aspects of historical events. There was a time when economic history was considered to be a branch of social history. In fact, the Dutch historian Van Dillen identified the two and called the composite discipline **Socio-Economic History**. Later, when social history became an autonomous branch of knowledge economic history emerged as a distinct discipline. Adam Smith's **Wealth of Nations** was the classical treatise on economic history. Montesquieu was profoundly influenced by it. Karl Marx economic interpretation of history widened the scope of economic history and stimulated the study of economic factors and forces to an unprecedented extant.

Constitutional History

Constitutional History has attained the status of an independent discipline. It deals with an aspect of the state organization, viz., the constitution of the government. Unlike the political history, it is not concerned with the struggle for the mastery over the state. On the other hand, it deals with political institutions, which Renier calls "habits of societies". Constitutions are nothing but human habits made concrete; they are the methods, the conventions and nothing but human habits made concrete; they are the methods, the conventions and the practices adopted by men in governing the state. Written constitutions and constitutional conventions are the subject matter of constitutional history. However, it lacks self-sufficiency. For instance, medieval manor cannot be considered as the constitutional expression of medieval politics.

Legal History

Legal history is an offshoot of Constitutional – Parliamentary history. Yet, it differs from them in many respects. The legal historians must necessarily be a lawyer or well versed in law. The connection between the subject chosen by the historian and jurisprudence is apparent. The history of the parliamentary enactments, their interpretation and application is a matter of considerable practical importance. The codified laws of Hammurabi of Babylon, Manu of India, Napoleon of France etc, are of considerable significance to legal historians.

Military History

Military history narrates the story of Military Operation. It deals with warfare in every form and aspect; technical, tactical and strategic. It also covers military engineering, ballistics, logistics and military transport. The military historian is not merely concerned with military planning but also the impact of wars on the fate of nations and life of the people.

Thucydides' **The History of the Peloponnesian War** is a classic example of military history. Outstanding works have been written on the South Indian Rebellion, the Great Indian Mutiny, the American Civil War and the first and second world wars.

Diplomatic History

The history of relations between sovereign states is known as Diplomatic History. It is also called International History. A distinction between the two could be made in that the former is limited to the actions of diplomats, while the latter is confined to the factors which affect the course of negotiations, study of inter-state relations. It has assumed importance especially after the First World War. External relations between states are maintained by ambassadors, trained experts in and practitioners of diplomacy.

Social History

Social history is concerned with the daily life of the inhabitants in past ages. Social history is the history of human society in its social aspects. It is also concerned with the origin and development of social institutions. Trevelyan, author of the Social History of England defined it as history with the politics left out. Auguste Comte demanded that historical facts should be used as raw materials by social historians. The Dutch historian P.J. Blok called it "the thought and the work, the daily life, the belief, the needs, the habits of our ancestors". August Comte demanded that historical facts should be used as raw materials by social historians. Social history excludes the political, constitutional, parliamentary, legal, diplomatic, military and national aspects of history and includes morals, manners, religion, food, dress, art, culture etc.

Subaltern History

The word 'subaltern' literally means any subordinate officer in the army below the rank of captain. The term is taken from Antonio Gramsci's manuscript writing. Friedrich Nietzsche, the German philosopher, coined the word. The pioneer Annales historians Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch laid the foundation for subaltern history. E.P. Thompson's master piece *The Making of the English Working Class* in 800 pages is a classic exposition of history from below. In historiography the term subaltern means inferior or subordinate subclass, group, gender, caste age or office. That is to say, subaltern history deals with events relating to the sub-ordinate or suppressed or marginalized sections of society such as tribal's, peasants, workers, women etc. In short, subaltern history is a non-traditional locally-produced sub-history.

History is an Art

There is a difference of opinion regarding that History is an Art or Science. Some of the scholars viewed that History is an Art. The positive characteristics, possessed by history, establish that it is as well an art. It is concerned with human values and it replete with material useful for artistic works. The historians' task is the reconstruction of the past. A scholar gifted with the talents of erudition and expression only can portray history according to his own evaluation, clothe his thoughts in distinctive mode of expression and seek new angles of presentation. Carlyle and Macaulay gave importance to the literary qualities of history. Earlier Dilthey in 1883 and Simmel in 1892 had compared history with art. Later, A.L. Rowse reiterated that "However much historical writings may be supplemented by scientific methods and acquisitions there will always remain history with science when he stated that "To reduce history to a natural science is deliberately to leave out of account what we know to be true, to suppress great portions of our most familiar introspective knowledge on the altar of false analogy with the sciences". It is unfortunate that the methodologists and the theorists' lookup on history as the essence of history and writing of history as a secondary and subsidiary function. This is wrong. For the art of writing must be called to the assistance of the historian. "Wrong theories about history do not necessarily lead to the writing of bad history: Croce and

Collingwood provide proof to the contrary". Benedetto Croce, the distinguished Italian historian. In his first essay on the theory of history, written at the age of 27, entitled History subsumed under the Concept of Art, he asserted that history was an art.

History is a Science

History is considered as a Science in the following aspects.

Firstly, it is an enquiry based on the real things after that real history is a science. It is **a kind of inquiry or research**. It does not consist in collecting what is already known and arranging it in a pattern. On the contrary, it consists in fastening upon something which is not known and try to discover it. It is, in fact, a means to an end; not an end itself.

Secondly, like science history begins from the knowledge of our own ignorance and proceeds **from the known to the unknown, from ignorance to knowledge, from indefinite to definite**.

Thirdly, history seeks **to find things out**. It provides answers to questions asked by historians. Each science finds out things in its own way. In this sense, history is the science of **res gestae**, i.e. the attempt to answer question about human actions in the past. In short, history is an investigation to find out what happened at a given time and place.

Fourthly, history is a science **it rests upon evidence and reasoning**. It is built on facts as a house is built on stones; but mere accumulation of facts is no more a science than a heap of stones in a house. The collected data is scientifically analyzed, Classified and interpreted.

Fifthly, history employs **scientific methods of enquiry**. It uses various methods of investigation such as observation, classification and formulation of hypothesis and analysis of evidence. The inductive view of historical method, i.e. collecting facts and interpreting them is an accepted method of science.

Sixthly, like the scientist an historian also approaches his subject matter in a **spirit of science**. Both are keen in acquiring accurate knowledge. In fine, history seeks to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. To the extent history endeavours to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. To the extent history endeavours to tell the truth by adopting a rational approach, it is a science.

Scholars consider that History as a science, history deals with nature, for man. Man is considered as subject to the operation of the fixed laws of nature. Secondly history employs the scientific methods of investigation and aims at the attainment of truth. Thirdly history is a social science discussing social relations.

R.G. Collingwood says it is a special kind of science.

Ranke wanted history to be treated as a science.

York Powell, Seeley and J.B. Bury announced that history was nothing but a science.

Uses of History

A study of history and analysis of historical developments promote powers of reasoning and criticism. The uses of history for government and administration are of particular relevance. It guides them in undertaking reforms.

A study of history appreciates as well as realizes the human dignity and democratic rights. The equal importance and moral and ethical values highlighted.the meaning of the

concept of usefulness of history depends on satisfying a given need in a particular era, period or age. Since the concept of the utility of history reflects the attitude and approach of individuals institutions and groups to the needs accepted or rejected by them it becomes complex, complicated and controversial.

Sir Thomas Munro succinctly summarized the use of history when he said “A few pages of history give more insight into the human mind and in an agreeable manner than all the metaphysical volumes ever published”. According to Bertrand Russel history is “enormously important; it gives stability and it gives depth to your thought and to your feeling” History promotes in us an insight into human nature. We witness in history the march of mankind with all its deeds and misdeeds.

Historical memory stores a great volume of socially useful information about events of the past and the part the heroes played in history. History provides precedents. It helps to settle various internal and international disputes. Such a settlement is possible only on the basis of historical information.

History gives us an indelible insight into man’s vision and mission, words and deeds, ups and downs. History helps us to understand the development of the human society with its entire ramification in arts, letters, religion, philosophy, and administration, adventure of ideas, culture and way of life. History is an embodiment of knowledge. As a discipline it covers everything – be it politics, economics, society, culture of religion.

Abuse of History

History is misused in many ways, in the process of recording and reconstructing, it is abused. It is happening due to ignorance, prejudice or motivation of the historian or because of the influence of interested parties.

Historical facts have to pass through the prism of prejudice, predilection and preconceived notions of the historian and during this process they get distorted, at times beyond recognition. History is misused when it is written on the basis of the belief in the divine creation of the Universe. Theocratic history belongs to this category.

Mythological history is totally out-side time –reckonings. The subject – matter is concerned with the actions, reactions and interactions between various gods and goddesses and the sequence of divine deeds described are not temporal. During the Reformation the Protestants and the Catholics misused history to uphold their respective standpoints. “God’s Way will the Netherlands” (1752) was written to justify the existence of the Dutch Republic as a prosperous nation.

The belief in the inevitability of progress through the systematic application of science of technology had inspired many a historian to worship the cult of progress. Motivated history is history misused. History is misused when it is written with patriotic fervour or nationalistic odour.

Patriotic or nationalistic history is necessarily partial because it exaggerates the virtues of the native nation at the cost of the enemy country.

History is abused when it deals with individual as the decisive in history. It is based on the view that what matters in history is the achievement of individuals. The historian’s desire to postulate individual genius as the creative force in history is as old as Greek history. A Historian writes about events, generally not witnessed by him, but someone else saw heard or reported them.

Fabricated versions too are common. Superstition was contributed to the abuse of history. Events are interpreted as to throw light on the great mystery of man's fate on the earth and the work of the divine forces. According to St. Augustine history was the story of the struggle between the city of God and the city of Satan, in which that of God would ultimately win.

Parties and groups misuse history to serve their needs and interests. During the reformation the Protestants and the Catholics used history to show the working of God's providence in accordance with their own predictions. New movements in history have contributed to the misuse and abuse of history, when the French Revolution broke out, the authority of history was claimed to assert that there existed a state of equality, freedom and fraternity in the glorious past before the rise of monarchical institutions. Political and economic trends serve as powerful incentives to the distortion of historical facts.

Lessons of History

The lessons of History suggest that certain things are to be avoided and certain things are to be adopted. History, being the sum total of human experience, it is rich and varied in its ideas and values. History is the repository of the rich heritage of the past. History offers umpteenth number of examples – good, bad and ugly.

History is said to be philosophy drawn from examples. It was Cicero who said that, a wise man learns from the experience of others whereas a fool learns from his own. Man learns and improves himself through historical experience.

History records not only lessons for guidance but also complements to individual experiences. History offers lessons on human progress. History is a record of progress of man from barbarism to civilization. Attempts have been made to avoid human subjection and to alleviate human sufferings. Oppressive social customs and exploitative economic systems have either been abolished or suitably modified so as to ensure social justice and economic freedom.

The pages of history are replete with lessons on repeated attempts made by man to achieve progress whether social or economic. Nations learn lessons from the failures, frustrations and successes of other countries. The world states have now realized that the well-being of the people at large is the well-being of the states. No state head will now tell the people what Marie Antoinette told the hungry French people before the Revolution.

Study of History promotes internationalism. Mankind has learnt the lesson of averting the danger of the emergence of dictators. Now it is recognized that the alternative to dictatorship is an effective constitutional regime with as many members of the citizen body as possible participate as actively in the management of public affairs. History has demonstrated that the human factors determine the course of history. Creative individuals make and mould history.

Theory of Causation

History as a record of events represents a study of cause, change and consequence. Different factors act in multiple causation as to cause historical events. One cause may stimulate other causes leading to the occurrence of change. Cheyney, in his Law in History rightly pointed out that actual origins elude us; everything is the outcome of something preceding. In fact the process of causation works at various stages and the never ending sequence of causes is paralleled by a never ending sequence of changes. Secondly changes in history never occur without advance warning. Before they acquire strength and gain speed,

they are preceded by long periods of preparation or gestation, when the South Indian Rebellion broke out in 1800 and the English heard its rumblings, they were overtaken by alarm. Thirdly, the process of change is characterized by a process of continuity; historical developments are one of continuity and change and hence are grouped in terms of growth and progress. It may appear at times that, unexpected changes occur suddenly and interrupt the process of continuity.

UNIT – II

THEORY OF CAUSATION

Role of Individuals

Historic heroes are unique. Because they are unique they are somewhat enigmatic and unaccountable. They exercise enormous social influence. It is not easy to subject them under a formula. They achieve what could not be accomplished by the masses. Historians can neither ignore nor exclude them from history. Writers like Carlyle, Nietzsche and Oman consider the hero as the ultimate factor that can be reached in a chain of events; the hero's of history are the makers of the past, the present and the future. Outstanding men like Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Dante, Shakespeare, Newton had left their imprints on the sand of time through their artistic and intellectual achievements. Pious men like Thomas a Kempis, St. Augustine, Tolstoy and leading actor like Caesar, Napoleon or Lenin played their roles in the human drama. Sidney Hook divides heroes of history into two broad categories, viz Eventful Men and Event Making men. The former owe their importance to the positions they hold and happen to be at the centre of historic events. On the other hand, Event Making Men convert the society to their way. They gain control of the situation and drive the society in the direction of their decision. Henry VIII of England and Frederick the Great of Prussia were the eventful men and Lenin, MaoTse-Tung and Gandhi were the event making men.

Individuals gain prominence and authority from their families, influence of their ideas, organization of their own association and institutional selection. The popular thinkers normally find difficulties to adjust themselves to the traditional ideas and consequence. Mazzini of Italy and Gandhi of India belongs to this class of leaders. Through positive as well as negative means leaders bring about change. There are instances when the individuals changed the course of history through their work. Peter the Great of Russia through the process of industrialization made his country a modern state. William Pitt of England because of his military strategy transformed the seven years war against France from defeat to victory.

Institutions and ideas

Ideas contributed to significant changes in history, for they rule the world and guide human activity. History unfolds a vast realm of ideas. It draws wisdom from experiences and contributes to the thought of the ages. Historical works are written under the influence of ideas and their importance is decided by virtue of them. Philosophy of history evolutionary process and economic interpretation are among the numerous concepts which have influenced historical writing. Ideas emerge in the paradise of dreamers and thinkers. Among the striking examples are to be cited the concepts of democracy and socialism. Ideas that guide human activity as well as historical writing are of two categories philosophical and practical. Theoretical by nature, the philosophical ideas cannot be subjected to any practical test. The Greek concept of fate and Hindu concept of Karma belong to this category. Practical ideas on the other hand can be made to work if people desire to do so. The ideas of monarchy, capitalism and socialism belong to this category.

The concept of Historical Progress

The word progress meant different things to different people at different times. The word progress is derived from the Latin term Progradi, which means forward walk. It means forward movement: advance or development. The concept of progress is based on the hypothesis that humanity is moving towards a state of perfection. According to J.B. Bury progress is both an interpretation of history and a philosophy of action. The classical Greeks and Romans were concerned more with the present than with the past and future. The modern concept of progress had its roots in the 18th century. History was considered to be a progressive science. In the 19th century, Hegels philosophical interpretation of history reinforced and

enriched the concept human progress. The Darwinian Revolution equated evolution with progress. History is progress through the transmission of acquired skills from one generation to another. Spencer identified historical progress with natural evolution. Acton conceived history as the record of those events as progress towards the understanding and enfoldment of liberty.

UNIT – III

REPUTED HISTORIANS

Herodotus

Herodotus was an ancient Greek historian (484–425 BC). Herodotus was the native of Halicarnassus, a Dorian settlement in Asia Minor. He was born of a family of considerable political clout. As a student he studied Greek poetry and was impressed by Homer's epics. He was also influenced by the chronicles of Hecataecus. He was excited at the age of 32 because of his uncle's involvement in political intrigue Along with his uncle. Herodotus embarked upon extensive travels. He was the first to set out to travel over the earth as far as man could go. Difficulties, discomforts and dangers were nothing to him. How far he travelled is hard to say. But he certainly went as Far east as Persia and as far west as Italy. He knew the Coast of the Black Sea and had been to Arabia. In Egypt he went up the Nile to Assouam. Probably he had been to Thrace, Scythia, Babylon, Cyrene, Libia, Sicily and India. Herodotus was thus the first sight-seer of the world. After the completion of the period of exile he settle down in Athens and lived in the court of Pericles for forty years. Then Herodotus retreated to Thuri, an Athenian Colony in Italy, where he breathed his last.

His Histories

Herodotus hazarded his travels with insatiable thirst of knowledge and "observed and enquired with the eye of the scientist and the curiosity of a child". Armed with a rich assortment of notes concerning the geography, history and manners of the people, which he meticulously and methodically collected during his far-reaching travels, he composed his monumental **Histories**. His work consists of 9 books; each one of them being named after one of the 9 Muses, the first book is presided over by Clio, the Muse of History. The first five books recount the early conflicts between the East and the West and the developments in Greece. The sixth one describes the Ionian revolt and the campaign of Marathon. The last three books describe the Graeco-Persian Wars. Two thirds of the books are devoted to his journeys and what he learned on them. The remaining one third deals with the Persian Wars. His travels provide the 'stage setting' for his central theme. He has been called "The Father of History" (firstly conferred by Cicero), and was the first historian known to collect his materials systematically, test their accuracy to a certain extent, and arrange them in a well-constructed and vivid narrative.

Thucydides

Thucydides (460 – c. 395 BC) was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Son of a rich Athenian owner of gold mines in Thrace he received the best education available in Athens. He was brought up in an environment of Greek enlightenment and scepticism. At the age of 36 he was chosen one of the two generals to command a navel expedition to Thrace. Because of his failure to relieve Amphibolies in time from the Spartan siege he was exiled! Like Herodotus he spent the next couple of decades in travel, especially in the Peloponnesus. Soon after the oligarchic revolution in 404 B.C., he returned to Athens. Thucydides died, some say murdered, in 396, leaving unfinished his monumental work, History of the Peloponnesian War.

Central Theme

The suicidal struggle between the two mighty Greek City-states, Athens and Sparta, is the central theme of Thucydides „History. He opens the narrative where Herodotus left off at the close of the Graeco-Persian War. He begins his book with the following words. "Thucydides, an Athenian, wrote the history of the war between the Peloponnesians and the Athenians from the moment that it broke out, believing that it would be an important war, and more worthy of relation than any that had preceded it... the conclusions I have drawn from the proofs quoted may, I believe, be safely relied on... In fine, I have written my work not as an essay which is to win the applause of the moment, but as a possession for all time "After this prefatory remarks

he gives a summary of the developments in Greece from the Minoan times to the Persian Wars. Then he proceeds to a description of the central theme, viz., the origin, development and denouement of the civil remains incomplete. Written in two stages his History seeks to narrate the civil struggle of 27 years as one war. Perhaps latter historian divided his work into Eight books on the basis of Chronology.

Father of Scientific History

Thucydides is not a chronicler. He is a seasoned historian. He claims that his conclusions are drawn from the proofs and he does not exaggerate at the expense of truth. Turning away from the region of legend, he proceeds upon the clearest data, proofs and evidence and arrives at conclusions "as exact as can be expected and evidence and arrives at conclusions "as exact as can be expected in matters of such antiquity". His history is surprisingly devoid of romance. In his inimitable words his work is written on the basis of "an exact knowledge of the past as an aid to the interpretation of the future – which is in the course of human affairs, must resemble, if it does not reflect, the past-I shall be content". Thucydides relied on search and research. He had a thorough knowledge of his predecessors, especially Herodotus. He left no stone unturned in his efforts to explore all available sources. As a general in the Athenian army he observed the developments, visited the friendly states and met prisoners of war. During his exile he had occasions to discuss at length the cause and course of the war with the Spartans. He made copious notes of the speeches of war veterans. He made copious notes of the speeches of war veterans. He ascertained the accuracy of the information, analyzed the data and arrived at conclusions. His mastery over details is indeed amazing. Thucydides is scrupulously impartial in his approach. As an Athenian he laments over the fall of Athens but as an historian he admires Spartan discipline. He balances the account of military campaigns with the description of political developments. He is strictly neutral on controversial issues. He never departs or swerves from the central theme of his History. He turns a deaf ear to credulous statements, hearsay reports and cock and bull stories. He avidly applies the yardstick of reason and mercilessly eliminates statements based on beliefs, traditions and superstitions. He frankly confessed: "My history might have been more interesting had I made it more romantic. But I shall be satisfied if it proves useful to investigators who wished to know exactly how things happened in the past". As he is analytical in his approach so is his style didactic, prosaic and terse. His accuracy is unassailable. In short, Thucydides is "the father of scientific method in history".

Edward Gibbon

Edward Gibbon (8 May 1737– 16 January 1794) was the intellectual child of Enlightenment. Born at Putney in London in 1737, Gibbon was brought up by his aunt Catherine Porter, „the mother of his mind“. His early education started at Kingston-on-Thames, Bash and Westminster. His grandfather’s library was the fountain-source of information to the voracious young Gibbon. His visits to country houses along with his father gave him an idea about the wealth of historical material available in libraries. He joined Magdalen College, Oxford and then went to Lausanne in Switzerland (1753– 1758) where he studied Latin and French. He was well – versed in Mathematics and Logic as well. His visit to Fernery to meet Voltaire was a turning point in his life. After his return from Lausanne, Gibbon joined the Hampshire militia and served as the captain during the Seven Years War (1756 – 1763). He visited Rome in 1764. On seeing the ruins of Rome, he decided to trace the causes for the fall of the Eternal City. On returning to England Gibbon entered politics and got elected to Parliament (1776), He served in the Lord North Ministry till 1782. Since then Gibbon devoted his life in writing history, his life ambition.

His Writings

The Memoirs, his autobiography, **Vindication** and the **Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire** are his major works. Of these, the **Decline and Fall** is his magnum opus. It earned him

an everlasting fame and made him and his work immortal. **The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire**, written during the first half of George III's reign, is in 6 volumes. This monumental work may be divided into **two parts**: the first part in four volumes covers the period of Roman history for 460 years from the second century A.D; the second part in two volumes covers the remaining period of 800 years. Thus, the Decline and fall is a straight narrative history of Rome for 1260 years. The **Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire** is a compendious composition in a captivating style. It is a masterly narration of a fascinating subject. While dealing with the development of Roman history Gibbon turns to Byzantium, Asia and Africa, after describing the reign of Heraclitus. Then he goes on to the crusades before coming down to the Fall of Constantinople He surveys the fluctuating fortunes of Rome through the Middle Ages. Thus, the Decline and Fall is a conducted „reconnaissance“ historical tour through the Imperial centuries and the Dark Ages upto the opening gates of Renaissance Rome.

George Wilhelm Frierich Hegel (1770 – 1831)

Hegel is one of the greatest thinkers of the modern world whose philosophical system influenced the development of existentialism, Marxism, Positivism and analytical philosophy. He was born at Stuttgart in the suburbs of Berlin (Germany). he completed his first major work, 'The Phenomenology of Mind' in 1807. He completed his second book 'the Science of Logic' during 1812 –16. He was then appointed to the chair of philosophy at Heidelberg where he published his Encyclopedia of Philosophy in 1817 in which he propounded his philosophical system comprising of logic, philosophy of nature and philosophy of the spirit. In 1812 he brought out his Philosophy of Right which made him a foremost figure in the realm of philosophy. He died in November 1831.

His Philosophy of History

He expounded in Phenomenology that the prime motive force of the historical process is human labour, or the practical activity of men in society. Hegel is the chief originator of 'process thought' which became the bedrock for the concept that historians and sociologists should look upon history not as a field governed by immutable 'laws' but as a process in which something fresh is created at every moment. Hegel presupposes that the whole of history is a process through which mankind is making spiritual and moral progress. Hegel has expounded the idealistic theory which has attempted to reconcile the theological and rational view of history through his metaphysical concept of idealism. Hegel brings religion into the picture for furnishing the ideal, and says that the entire human culture has been conditioned by the type of ideal each of the great religions has placed before its votaries. Judaism typifies duty, Confucianism stands for order, Islam for justice, Christianity for love, Buddhism for patience and Hinduism for tolerance.

Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804)

He was a great German Philosopher. His Theory of Heavens (1755) attempted a mechanical explanation of all sidereal motion and development of heavenly bodies. His magnum opus The Critique of PURE Reason (1781) contended that knowledge was not derived from senses; that religion could be based not on reason but on morals; that faith must be put beyond the realm of reason and the pure reason could be practical. His Critique of Judgment (1790) and Religion within the limits of Pure Reason (1793) dealt with Religion. His, The Natural Principle of the Political Order considered in connection with the idea of a Universal Cosmopolitan History (1784) shortly called the Universal History contained his ideas of History and Politics. The Essay of Eternal Peace (1795) developed the area of peace so necessary for human progress. His Anthropology (1798) suggested the possibility of the animal origin of Man.

Kant's Philosophy of History

He was the founder of Romantic Idealism. He rejected the reason as a guide for

human action and laid emphasis on emotion and morality. Kant divided the Universe into two world Phenomena and Noumena. Phenomena refer to the material world. It can be experienced through the senses. It is external. It is physical. The external material world is finished product. The object is a phenomenon, an appearance and an illusion. On the contrary Noumena is the Thing – in – itself. It is the mental world.

Leopold Von Ranke (21 December 1795 – 23 May 1886)

He was a German historian of the 19th century, considered one of the founders of modern source: based history. Ranke set the tone for much of later historical writing, introducing such ideas as reliance on primary sources (Empiricism), an emphasis on narrative history and especially international politics. Beginning with his first book in 1824, the History of the Latin and Teutonic peoples from 1494 to 1514, Ranke used an unusually wide variety of sources for a historian of the age including “memoirs, diaries, personal and formal missives, government documents, diplomatic dispatches and firsthand accounts of eye witnesses”. Starting in 1831 at the behest of the Prussian government, Ranke founded and edited the Historisch – Politische Zeitschrift journal. Ranke, who was a conservative, used the journal to attack the ideas of Liberalism. Between 1834:1836 Ranke produced the multi volume History of the Popes, their Church and the State in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries) As a Protestant, Ranke was barred from viewing the Vatican archives in Rome, but on the basis of private papers in Rome and Venice, Ranke was able to explain the history of Papacy in the 16th century. In his book, Ranke coined the term the Counter Reformation and offered colorful portrayals of Pope Paul IV, Ignatius of Loyola, and Pope Pius V. The Papacy denounced Ranke’s book as an anti: Catholic while many Protestants denounced Ranke’s book as too neutral. In 1849; Ranke published Neun Bucher pressicher Geschichte (translated as Memoirs of the House of Brandenburg and History of Prussia, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries) where Ranke examined the fortunes of the Hohenzollern family and states from the middle Ages to the reign of Frederick the Great. In 1884, he was appointed the first honorary member of the American Historical Association. After his retirement in 1871, Ranke continued to write on a variety of subjects relating to German history such as the French Revolutionary Wars, Albrecht von Wallenstein, Karl August von Hardenberg, and King Frederick William IV of Prussia. Starting in 1880, Ranke began a huge six volume work on World History, which began with ancient Egypt and the Israelites. By the time of Ranke’s death in Berlin in 1886, aged 90, he had only reached the 12th century. Subsequently his assistants used his notes to take the series up to 1453.

Karl Marx (1818 – 1883)

He was the founder of scientific socialism, expounded the economic interpretation of history. He was born at Treves near Cobenz in Germany. In 1848, Friederick Engels and Karlmarx issued the Communist Manifesto. In 1867, he published the first volume of his great work on political Economy, Das Capital. In this work, he elucidated his doctrines, the fundamental of them are Economic Interpretation of history all of the great political, social and intellectual movements of history have been determined by the economic environment.

Dialectical Materialism - Every distinct economic system based upon a definite pattern and exchange grows to a point of maximum efficiency, then develop contradictions or weaknesses within it, which cause its rapid decay.

Class Struggle – All history has been made up of struggle between classes. In ancient times, it was a struggle between the master and slaves. In medieval times, it was a struggle between the lord and serfs. In modern times, it is the struggle between the capitalists and labourers.

The doctrine of Surplus Value - all wealth is created by the worker. Capital creates nothing but is itself created by the labour. The value of all commodities is determined by the quantity of labour power needed to produce them.

Theory of Socialist evolution - exploitation leads to class struggle. The workers destroy capitalism and establish socialism.

Arnold J. Toynbee (1889–1975)

A.J. Toynbee is a meta-historian. Born on April 14, 1889 in London, He studied Greek and Latin classics at Belliol College, Oxford. He was a student of the British Archaeological School at Athens for a year. He taught ancient history at Belliol for three years. Then he entered government service and worked in the British Foreign Office. He was a member of the British delegation to the Paris Peace Conference in 1946. With his rich political experience Toynbee joined King's College, University of London (1919) as Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies and remained in service till 1924. From 1925 to 1955, he was the Director of Studies at the Royal Institute of International Affairs and Research Professor of International History in the University of London. Toynbee was named a Champion of Honour on the official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II in 1956. He set out on the round-the-world lecture tour visiting several countries including India. Toynbee is a profound and prolific writer. He is the author of Nationality and War, Greek Historical Thought, Civilization on Trial, A Historian's View of Religion, Experiences, Study of History and Reconsideration besides a score of research articles. Of these, his Study of History in 12 volumes is his magnum opus. The first three volumes of the Study were published in 1933 another three in 1939, volumes VII to X were released in 1954 and volumes XI and XII were published in 1951 and 1961 respectively. D.C. Somervell's abridgement of the entire work is a commendable feat in condensation.

His Treatment of History

In all, Toynbee identifies 28 Civilizations of the World including the following six surviving civilizations. 1) The Western Society, 2) Orthodox Christian Society, 3) IT Offshoot in Russia, 4) The Islamic Society, 5) The Hindu Society and 6) The Far Eastern Society in China. The remaining civilizations were either aborted at birth or arrested at growth or developed and disintegrated.

A Study of History' (1934–61) put forward a philosophy of history, based on an analysis of the cyclical development and decline of civilizations that provoked much discussion. In the Study Toynbee examined the rise and fall of 26 civilizations in the course of human history, and he concluded that they rose by responding successfully to challenges under the leadership of creative minorities composed of elite leaders. Civilizations declined when their leaders stopped responding creatively, and the civilizations then sank owing to the sins of nationalism, militarism, and the tyranny of a despotic minority. His other works include Civilization on Trial (1948), East to West: A Journey Round the World (1958) and Hellenism: The History of a Civilization (1959).

UNIT – IV

INDIAN HISTORIANS

Kalhana's Rajatarangini

Rajatarangini (a chronicle or history of kings of Kashmir) by Kalhana, a distinguished Kashmir historian of the twelfth century AD. He was the son of Campaka, a minister of king Harsa (AD 1089-1101). He adorned the court of king Jayasima (AD 1127-59), the son of Sussala II. It was during his reign that he composed his great work. According to all available evidences, he began his work in AD 1148 and completed it in 1150. His Rajatarangini became the most famous of all the ancient royal chronicles of Kashmir. Kalhana was gifted with all qualities of a true historian. He occupies the highest place among the ancient historians of India. Kalhana made a through use of royal charters, edicts, records of land-grants, the contemporary documents, coins, inscriptions and other archaeological evidence.

The Rajatarangini (in Sanskrit containing nearly 8000 verses) is divided into eight books called tarangas. It embraces the history of Kashmir from the time of the first Hindu king Gonanda to AD 1149, the 22nd year of the reign of the last illustrious king Jayasimha. It contains the genealogies and chronology of kings of various dynasties that ruled Kashmir during this period. The achievements of all important kings and the details of all important events which took place during their times have been highlighted by the author in his work. Gonanda I and his successors and some other kings has been provided in Book I, Book II contains the list of six princes from Pratapaditya I to Aryaraja who belonged to Aditya dynasty. From Book III it appears that there was restoration of Gonanda dynasty and then princes of this dynasty from Meghavahana to Baladitya reigned in Kashmir. The information provided by Kalhana in Books IV – VIII covering the period from early seventh century AD to about the middle of the twelfth century are more trustworthy.

AbulFazl

Shaikh Abu al-Fazal ibn Mubarak also known as Abu'l-Fazl, Abu'l-Fadlan Abu'l-Fadl 'Allami (January 14, 1551 – August 12, 1602) was the vizier of the great Mughal emperor Akbar, and author of the Akbarnama, the official history of Akbar's reign in three volumes, (the third volume is known as the Ain-i-Akbari) and a Persian translation of the Bible. He was also one of the Nine Jewels of Akbar's royal courts and the brother of Faizi, the poet laureate of Emperor Akbar. The Akbar nama is a document of history of Akbar's reign and his ancestors spread over three volumes. It contains the history of Akbar's ancestors from Timur to Humayun, Akbar's reign up to the 46th regnal year (1602), and an administrative report of Akbar's empire, the Ain-i-Akbari, which itself is in three volumes. The third volume of Ain-i-Akbari gives an account of the ancestry and life of the author. The Ain-i-Akbari was completed in the 42nd regnal year, but a slight addition was made to it in the 43rd regnal year on the account of the conquest of Berar.

Jadunath Sarkar (1870-1958)

Jadunath Sarkar was born on 10 December 1870 in village Karchamaria, under Singraupazila of Natore district. Son of Rajkumar Sarkar, a zamindar of Karchamaria, he graduated with Honours in English and History in 1891 and stood first class first in MA in English in 1892. He got the Premchand Roychand Studentship in 1897, and his essay, India of Aurangzeb was published in 1901. In 1893, Jadunath joined Ripon College, Calcutta as a teacher in English literature. In 1898, he joined the Provincial Education Service and was posted at Presidency College, Calcutta. In 1917, he joined the History Department of Banaras Hindu University and in 1918 was nominated to the Indian Educational Service and was transferred to Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, to teach both English and History. In 1926, on retirement from government service, Jadunath was appointed Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University. He was

offered a second term on 7 August 1928, which he refused. a versatile genius whose pen produced remarkable works in biography, topography, art, architecture, religion, economics, statistics, survey, corpuses and military science. The treatment he adopted was of Ranke's technique, where he ignored the general histories as useless and went to original documents letters, diaries and other records which were to a great extent. The historical works of Jadunath can be divided into two broad types. In the first category were his major works, such as History of Aurangzib (5 Vols, 1912-1958), Shivaji and His Times (1919), Mughal Administration (1920), Later Mughals (ed., 1922, 2 Vols.), Fall of the Mughal Empire (4 Vols, 1932-38), Military History of India (1960) etc. The other category included all his translations into English and Bangla of the Persian and Marathi documents as well as innumerable articles in English and Bengali, reviews, forewords etc. His published Bengali articles numbered 148, much less than his English articles which numbered 365.

Nilakanta Sastri(1892-1975)

He was Born in 1892 near Tirunelveli Sastri had his education at Hindu College, Tirunelveli and Christian College, Madras. He was Professor of History at Tirunelveli and Madras before he became the Principal of Sri Meenakshi College, Chidambaram (1920 – 1929), the precursor of Annamalai University. Then he joined Madras University as Professor of Indian History and Archaeology and worked from 1929 to 1947. He thus carried the mantle of his illustrious predecessor Professor S.Krishnaswamy Aiyangar with distinction.

K.A. NilakantaSastri is one of the eminent historians of South India. A profound scholar, he was well versed in Tami, Telugu, English, Dutch and French. He collected data from a variety of sources in different languages. The voluminous works of Sastri were of several categories: political history, social history and research methodology. He authored a number of books include The Pandya Kingdom, The History of South India, The Colas, History of Srivijaya and Historical Method in Relation to problems of South Indian History. He also edited a number of works include A Comprehensive History of India, Further Sources of Vijayanagar History, Foreign Notices of South India, The Age of the Nandas and Mauryas. The early History of South India was reconstructed. Historical conception is comprehensive and interrelated.

R.C.Majumdar (1884 -1980)

He was a historian and professor of Indian History. He was born in Khandarpara, Faridpur in West Bengal. He started his career as a Lecturer at Dacca College. Since 1914, he was served as a professor of History at the University of Calcutta. He obtained his doctorate degree for the thesis entitled, Corporate Life in Ancient India. He was appointed as a Professor of History in the University of Decca. He held various positions as a Head of the Department, Dean of the faculty of Arts and Vice Chancellor and President of Indian History Congress. He taught Indian History in the University of Chicago and University of Pennynsylvania(1958 -59). He became the president of Asiatic Society(1966 -68).He authored a number of works includes histories of Champa (1927), Suvarnavdipa (1929) and Kampujadesa. He edited the multi volumes of History of the Indian People from Vedic period to the present times in eleven volumes. In 1955, he established the college of Indology of Nagpur University. He also edited the three volumes of history of Bengal published by Dacca University. He published the book The Sepoy Mutiny & Revolt of 1857, History of the Freedom Movement in India.

RanjithGuha

He was born in 1923. He is an Indian Historian and one of the members in the group of Subaltern Studies. He migrated from India to the U.K. in 1959 and served as the reader in history in the University of Sussex. The Subaltern Studies is the title given to a series of volumes initially published under the editorship of Ranajit Guha, the prime mover and the ideologue of the project. He edited the first six volumes of the Subaltern Studies. His Major works includes A

rule of property for Bengal; an essay on the idea of permanent settlement , elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency In Colonial India, History at the limit of Word History, An Indian Historiography of India: A Nineteenth Century Agenda & Its Implications, Dominance without Hegemony: History and power in Colonial India, The Small Voice of History. He also edited the book, Selected Subaltern Studies, A Subaltern Studies Reader. He mentioned that Subaltern as the demographic difference between the total Indian population and all those whom we have described as the elite.

Romila Thapar

Romila Thapar was born on 30 November 1931. She is an Indian historian whose principal area of study is ancient India. She took her first degree in India from the Punjab University and her doctorate at London University in 1958. She has taught Ancient Indian History at London University, Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. Professor Thapar has been a visiting professor at Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania and the College de France in Paris. She was elected General President of the Indian History Congress in 1983, as well as Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy in 1999. Her works includes A Study of the Emperor Asoka, Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas (1961, 1973), From Lineage to State (1984), Indian Tales, The Past and Prejudice, Exile and the Kingdom: Some Thoughts on the Ramayana (1978), Ancient Indian Social History: Some Interpretations (1978), The History of India (1990), Interpreting Early India (1993), History and Beyond (2000). Thapar has an interest in the social and cultural history of ancient India. The increasing interest in the historiography of the early period is an indicator of the awareness of the role of ideology in historical interpretation. She has also used comparative method to study similar societies with the evidence both literary and archaeological sources. Other sources include linguistic, ethnographic and other fields of Indology.

Romila Thapar is a conspicuous member of the Marxist School of Indian historiography. She is mostly responsible for building the Centre for Historical Studies in the Jawaharlal Nehru University. She reinterprets the History of Emperor Asoka from the point of view of political and social background instead of a moralistic approach. Her Marxist orientation is revealed in her History of India, immensely well written research based Text-cum-Reference book, where she says that political pattern, dynastic change, cultural shifts and social relationships are “inextricably entrained in changes in the economic structure and these in turn have a bearing on the social relationships”. In her perceptive study Interpreting Early India she applies Marxist concept of Asiatic Mode of Production (AMP).

Irfan Habib

Irfan Habib was born on 12th August, 1931 in Baroda (now Vadodra) Gujrat. Irfan Habib started his education in Aligarh Muslim University and completed his B.A. in 1951 securing first position and a gold medal and M.A. in History in 1953 with honors and joined as Lecturer in Department of History in Aligarh Muslim University at a very young age of 22 years. He obtained his M.Phil. degree from New College, Oxford. His research “Agrarian System of Mughal India” was well taken by the research community was published in form of a book in 1963. He was appointed as “Reader” in 1960 and “Professor” in 1969 in the Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University.

His major publications including, Agrarian System of Mughal India, Essays in Indian History: Towards a Marxist perception and Atlas of the Mughal Empire gave his due place in the academic community. He is also the editor of Peoples History of Indian Series, besides having edited UNESCO publications and Cambridge Economic History of India, Volume I. He has authored and edited number of books, over hundred research papers on various fields of Indian and world history. Prof. Irfan Habib has worked on the historical geography of Ancient India,

the history of Indian technology, medieval administrative and economic history, colonialism and its impact on India, historiography, Interpreting Indian History, Caste and Money in Indian History, Problems of Marxist Historiography, Agrarian System of Mughal India, An Atlas of the Mughal Empire, His contribution to the Cambridge Economic History of India, Vol.I.

Prof. Irfan Habib had served as Chairman of Department of History of AMU from 1975 to 1977 and from 14th June, 1984 to May 1988. He had also served as Coordinator of Center of Advance Studies (CAS) in Department of History, AMU Aligarh from 1975 to 1977 and 14th June 1994 to 13th May 1996. In 1986, Prof. Irfan Habib was appointed as Chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) New Delhi, India. He served as its Chairman from 9th September, 1986 to 1st July 1990. He had also served as President and Vice-President of Indian History Congress in 1981 and 2006 respectively. Indian History Congress is India's largest peer body of historians. He delivered Radha Krishnan Lecture at Oxford in 1991. In 1998, he was elected as Corresponding Fellow of British Royal Historical Society, a unique honor earned by his scholarly contribution, recognized by the international community. Prof. Irfan Habib, formally retired on 30.08.1991. Recognition as a fearless exponent of Marxist historiography rained down on him. His initial work pertained to the medieval era of Indian history. He has ceaselessly produced tracts on aspects of this historical period, each of which bears the stamp of his intellectual depth and clarity of writing. Irfan Habib contends that only through imaginative and constructive interpretation of sources gaps found in the events of the past could be meaningfully filled. He reinterprets Indian history in the light of the divisive phenomenon of caste. He questions the post-Marxian classification of all societies into a rigid universal periodization of Primitive Communism, Slavery and Feudalism. He also questions the view that Marx held all thoughts are reflection of the material world. He relooks the medieval north Indian society from the point of view of the peasants. His peeps into the economic history of India are purposeful. His Atlas of the Mughal Empire is an exemplary exercise in historical cartography.

K.Rajayyan

He was born in 1929. He was served as Lecturer in Venkateswara University and Professor and Head, Department of Modern History in Madurai Kamaraj University. He authored a number of Books including South Indian Rebellion 1800 -1801, A History of British Diplomacy in Tanjore, History of Madurai 1736 -1801, Selections from History of Tamilnadu, History of Tamilnadu 1565-1982, Rise and fall of the Poligars of Tamilnadu, History in Theory and Methods, History of U.S.A. He was the founder of South Indian History Congress.

UNIT – V

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Historical Research

'Research' is of French origin (from Recherché) and means a "careful search or investigation, systematic investigation towards increasing the sum of knowledge". Research methodology deals with the activity of recognizing, using and interpreting the sources of history towards a careful investigation for increasing the sum of historical knowledge. research methodology as a systematized study of procedural features in conducting investigations for assessing the past studies and social experiences and analyzing them with new factual additions and further new interpretations and explanations.

Pre - requisites of a Research Scholar

Research is the activity undertaken to bring out something new, to extend the horizon of knowledge and to contribute some original idea. To execute research work, the scholar should have the following requirements.

Firstly, the scholar should have the needed aptitude, training and technical know – how to get himself interested in the topic chosen for investigation. Depending upon the period of his research, the researcher has to get adequate training in handling the archaeological, epigraphic and numismatic material. So also a researcher in modern period should be well versed in locating and handling of the archival sources.

Secondly, the research project should be of practicality. The source material should be available to the required extent and should be within one's reach, without causing undue hardship. The researcher should be at liberty to use the material without the anxiety of being censured by the owner or the custodian of the records.

The third requirement would be relating to the size. One has to ascertain the size of the requirement, taking into account the nature of the study such as whether it is for a project report or for a journal's article, or for master's degree dissertation or for a doctoral degree or for publishing a book. The Extent of the area, duration of the period, availability of source material and nature of the contents has much to-do with the size of the work. Normally most of the themes, even after they are chosen, can either be expanded or restricted so as to suit the requirements.

Fourthly, the subject chosen should have a central or unifying theme, a direction by progression, continuity and the promise of yielding specific conclusions. It is not possible to bring different and disjointed units together unless they are united by a central and continuous theme. Based upon chronology, the evolution of Mughal polity can be attempted. Based upon a social phenomenon like the caste conflict or class struggle, the study of different societies can be undertaken. But an outline of history of south India through the ages and a study on India or U.S.A may not be suitable as subjects for thesis.

Fifthly, the researcher should have labour of love, the taste for the subject, the ability to sustain and enjoy hard work. He should go in search of data to unknown areas and overcome all the hurdles and should have iron-will to complete the thesis.

Sixthly the scholars have personal honesty and moral integrity. The scholar should not be too optimistic or too pessimistic, "to exaggerate or to under estimate, to praise someone too high or condemn him too low. He should maintain balance of judgment and his conclusions should be supported by evidences.

Seventhly, he should never consciously distort, or twist his evidence even by literary artistry. He should guard himself against religious, racial, class, communal regional or national preconceptions and prejudice.

Eighthly, an alert and mobile mind is necessary. According to Professor K.A. Nilakanta Sastri, the scholar should, “keep his mind constantly switched on his subject as it were and to respond quickly to the impact of each new datum as it comes along his path. An alert and mobile mind that does not run in to grooves is the most important requisite for success in the interpretation” and proper presentation of new data or reinterpretation of old data in the new light.

Ninthly, the scholar should not be in hurry or hasty, mood to finish his work. Patience is the cardinal virtue of a scholar. Research has no schedule of time. Gibbon took quite a long time to write his volumes and nobody sits in judgement over the length of time. He consumed but would see the quality of work he has turned out. In research, the criterion is the quality of work, the question of whether the requisite excellence has been reached or not having equipped himself with these mental and moral aptitudes, a historian has to acquire certain skills of practical value, such as how to collect notes, how to prepare bibliography, a synopsis and how to plan his work. These are all preparatory operation before the main job of analyzing verifying and unifying the data. Thus he should know the historical method which saves time and energy and ensures quality.

The following requirements need to be fulfilled for the purpose of a thesis. The scholar should have the needed aptitude, training and technical know-how to get himself interested in the subject chosen for investigation and to render adequate justice to it. If the topic relates to ancient period it may be necessary to handle archaeological evidences and if it is of modern period archival evidences. Training needs to be acquired for the collection as well as utilization of the data. The research project should be of practicality. The source material should be available to the required extent and should be within reach, without experiencing unreasonable inconvenience. If the material is found in unknown language or in foreign countries it will be essential to learn the languages and visit the places wherever the material is deposited or to employ the needed agency for assistance. The topic chosen for research should meet the requirement of size. The subject chosen should have a central or unifying theme, a direction by progression, continuity and the promise of yielding specific conclusions. The topic chosen for research should represent an original contribution.

Selection of Topic

Selecting a topic for research is of vital importance and it must be done with utmost care. Success in historical writing depends to a large extent upon the selection of a proper subject. A wrong choice would result in regret and disappointment. Historical research could be on any one of the following aspects:

1. Addition of new data.
2. New interpretation of known data
3. Subordination of the data to a principle.

A scholar has to make sure that he should discover or unearth or find out something new, the hidden historical truth, unknown until his time and no one else had researched into that area. A subject is normally chosen with the assistance of the guide and supervisor.

The guide must provide the scholar with broad outlines about ancient, medieval and modern periods, about the political, social, economic history or biographical studies. He should not try to thrust his own likes and dislikes upon the scholar.

The scholar should choose the subject of research based on his own interests, tastes and aptitudes pertaining to a region, trend, period, a person or an institution. The area as well as period to be selected must be limited in scope. Nowadays research is specialization in small area or a short span of time. Besides, studies can be undertaken upon a historical personality (example Pandit Nehru) or a group of people (example the Nadars or Maravars) or an institution like caste or religion or Panchayat Raj is appropriate. A person intending to work on Ancient India, must be capable of pulling out information from archaeological sources, deciphering ancient scripts, reading inscriptions and must be familiar with Sanskrit language. Those who want to work on the Sangam age must possess a sound knowledge of Tamil literature.

To do research in the medieval period the scholar should know the Persian, Urdu and Arabic languages and should be in a position to handle the inscriptional evidence. For the modern period, one should have the knowledge of English, Portuguese, Dutch and French and further the relevant regional language. This becomes necessary because a researcher has to study the travel accounts, correspondence, factory records. He should get himself acquainted with the job of locating and handling of the archival material.

A survey of the review of new books and bibliographical articles would provide clues for choosing a subject. As far as possible subjects of comparative history should be avoided by the fresh scholars, To sum up, in choosing a subject the nature of enquiry of the scholar, the study and the practical problems involved in a particular study will serve as determining factors. The significance of the choice of the subjects is stressed in the saying, "When you succeed in choosing the proper subject, your research is half done." Thus selecting the topic is of vital importance and should be done with utmost care.

Interest of Researcher

A researcher must select very carefully keeping in view his interest because he has to work on the selected topic for years using energy and resources. A researcher should also keep in mind whether the topic belongs to social, economic, political, religious aspect and whether it concerns to national regional, local or international level.

Availability of Source Material

At the time of choosing the subject, a researcher must be sure of the availability of sufficient source material. He should also keep in mind the time period during which the research project

could be completed. It is important to know what primary sources must be consulted and where these are to be found. Primary sources are very scarce and not always available to the scholars. It is a well known fact that not much is known about the events in Tamilnadu. History of Tamilnadu has gap between 300 to 600 A.D, during the Kalabra-Interegum due to paucity of material. The history of the Portuguese in Tamilnadu also falls into the same category. Materials are either with private individuals or in foreign countries. They are in Portuguese and Latin Languages. So materials are available but not easily accessible.

Reliable Research Materials

A researcher is expected to produce a good and excellent piece of work. Therefore, before choosing a subject finally, he must keep in mind that the reliable research material will be made available to him easily. He is also required to consider the fact whether the material will be available at one place or it is scatter at different places.

Clear View about Objectives

In fact a researcher should be quite clear in his views about objectives of the thesis before the selection of the subject. Sometimes an enthusiastic scholar does not know how to limit a subject properly, whereas it is essentially needed that the scholar must be satisfied that he will be able to finish his work in the reasonable length of time.

Collection of Sources

Historical research method consists of collection of data (heuristics) criticism, synthesis and exposition. The term "heuristics" is derived from the German term heuristic meaning "discover." In historical method, it stands for the art of searching for and the collection of various documents, which form the main sources of History. Sources are the places of origin of evidences. These sources are the bedrock of historical research. They are not easily available. They are to be searched out. Data collection is the most tedious part of historical research.

The first problem which the students generally face concerns collection of data. Many scholars are inclined to depend on armchair research. But this is not always possible. Moreover, collection of secondary as well as primary data requires place-to-place and library-to-library studies. In history nowadays many students are inclined to choose topics from the modern period rather than from the ancient or the medieval period. They feel that the modern period has abundant sources.

Primary and Secondary Sources of Data Collection

The historical sources of data collection can be divided in two categories

- Primary
- Secondary

A primary source of data is one that the researcher or scholar has created himself by his own effort. We can also say that primary sources are original. No researcher can be called a competent and authentic historian unless he has worked in primary source materials. As regards the secondary sources, we can say that it is the testimony of someone who was not present at the time of happening of the event. The books written by different historians are put in the category of secondary sources. A primary source is the raw material and a secondary source is a finished product. A first rate historian will wish to go to the original sources of information.

The secondary source is the coherent work of history in the form of article, dissertation or book which will widen the general historical knowledge.

External Criticism

The term "heuristics" is derived from the Greek word "heuriskein", which means „to find. That is to find out the authenticity of the document and the veracity of the information found in it. Heuristics is a technique to detect, trace and located historical evidences. External criticism is aims at preventing the use of false evidences. In external criticism the scholar examines whether records are forged or distorted. It examines whether a particular document or an artifact is genuine or not. External criticism includes the examination of documents like manuscripts, books, pamphlets, maps, including ancient inscriptions and monuments. The aim is that to obtain all possible information of any significance about their origin and if need be of resorting the original form of writing. External criticism analyze the authorship of documents, handwriting, dates, the question of genuineness, purity etc. Archaeology, Chronology and Paleography (the study of ancient writings and manuscripts) are used to determine the authenticity of a document.

Internal Criticism

Hermeneutics is internal interpretative criticism. It is also called Higher Criticism. It is a science of interpretation. If heuristic deals with the external aspects of a document, hermeneutics deals with the internal aspects of the document. Internal criticism is applied to examine the credibility of a document, whether the contents given in it are believable or not. The internal value of the document must be analyzed. The object of internal criticism is to penetrate in to the contents, to analyze the text internally, and find out the historical facts contained in it. The internal criticism is the establishment of the credibility of collected data. It is the duty of a research scholar to analyze the source fairly. Thus internal criticism deals with the contents of the documents, their probability, author's veracity etc.,

Internal criticism can be applied only where the research workers are dealing with writing, whether in documents or in inscriptions, in monuments, coins, medals or seals. In purpose of finding out whether the message it carries is genuine. It is not a separate operation. It takes place each time a researcher comes across a bundle of traces that forms a document. For the records might contain both true and false statements. Such statements have to be carefully tested and scrutinized before they are used. Some of the documents might be written with inadequate knowledge or with motivation or prejudice. The court historians might have written with a view to praise their patrons. Similarly, the foreign travellers might have been guided by rumours or hearsay. Rulers, administrators and military commanders would have been influenced by a particular standpoint in their writing.

Objectivity in Historical Writing

The prime motive of a historian while writing history is to bring forth the truth, which is of course not an easy task. The historian writes about events generally not witnessed by him but someone else saw, heard or reported. To write an authentic history, he has to depend upon original witness, accurate observation and faithful report. Objectivity in historical writing is the most important characteristic of good history. It is a nature or mentality of a historian not to allow prejudice and bias both from the historian and the historical sources. The subjective feelings, ideas, concepts likes and dislikes are liable to enter into anybody writings. But, a historian's outlook should be scientific and objective. It is with that object only Bury calls history "a science, no less, no more." Before the Greek writers writing history, the discipline of history was a part of literature with legends and mythology. History as a separate branch of knowledge developed when Thucydides brought out the necessity of writing authentic history. Therefore he is called the father of scientific history.

Objective history means unbiased history or "history strictly in accordance with facts and uninfluenced by any personal feeling or prejudice". Ranke an history had, as stated in the master's first book. Histories of the Latin and Germanic Nations 1494-1514, only one aim: 'to show what actually happened'. It is still the duty of the historian to reconstruct the past as nearly as it really happened. His fundamental commitment is to the truth of the past. Objectivity in history will be served best if the historian observes complete impartiality at the factual level by bringing to the surface all available information bearing on his subject and not suppressing some.

Foot Notes

In all research work it is very essential to indicate the exact sources utilized in the work, which comes in the form of footnotes. Footnotes give evidence of the scholarship of the researcher.

The objects of footnotes are

1. to substantiate the statements made in the thesis

2. to record indebtedness to the source used
3. to relieve the text of less important discussion or information
4. to give cross-references to the matter appearing elsewhere in the book itself
5. to provide the reader with sufficient information to enable him to consult sources independently.

The sources or authorities should be indicated every page. References given in footnotes should first state the name of the author, the title of the work (in italics), place and date of publication, and finally the page reference. The page number should be placed by the letter "p" in the lower case with a point or full stop and followed by another full stop. When a published manuscript is cited, it should be underlined; if unpublished, its place of origin (name of Museums, Archives etc.) should be mentioned. If the source is a periodical, the particular article must be put in inverted commas. Footnotes are numbered consecutively throughout the chapter and placed either at the bottom of the appropriate page or in list at the end of the chapter. Footnote numerals in the text should come immediately after the part of sentence, never put the numerals in the middle of the sentence. The footnote numbers are put slightly above the line followed by a space.

Bibliography

Bibliography in general is a list of sources of information on a given subject or of literary works of a given author, indicating the range of literature consulted for the collection of data. In the strict sense, a bibliography is a list of published works, but by common usage, both published and unpublished materials are listed in bibliography. It is important for the scholar to understand the variety of sources available and to learn what has written about the topic which he is concerned. It is to find out what resources are available to help answer the question the research scholar posed. The researcher has to prepare a full but tentative bibliography of both the primary and secondary sources of subject chosen. It is a continuous work requiring periodical attention. For acquiring a clear picture about the available sources it is very necessary to prepare a preliminary bibliography. A more useful method for preparing preliminary bibliography is to look at the recommended reading list in a textbook on the topic. Once the scholar found one of the recommended books, he can look at that book's bibliography for further enquiry. Going from one book to another in this manner would provide a fairly good understanding of the scholarly literature. Those books which most frequently cited are often generally regarded as the most important in the area of study. The word Bibliography is derived from the Greek word biblio which means book. Any list of books may be called bibliography. The bibliography is a formal list of the sources used by the researcher in the preparation of his thesis. Every research work must contain a bibliography. A bibliography includes all those sources cited in the research work, and may also contain such of the works as are consulted by the research scholar but not cited in his work. The list of sources must contain full bibliographical information on all the books and articles quoted in the text of the thesis and used in the footnotes. Any significant omission in the compilation of one's bibliography will damage the validity of the work.

