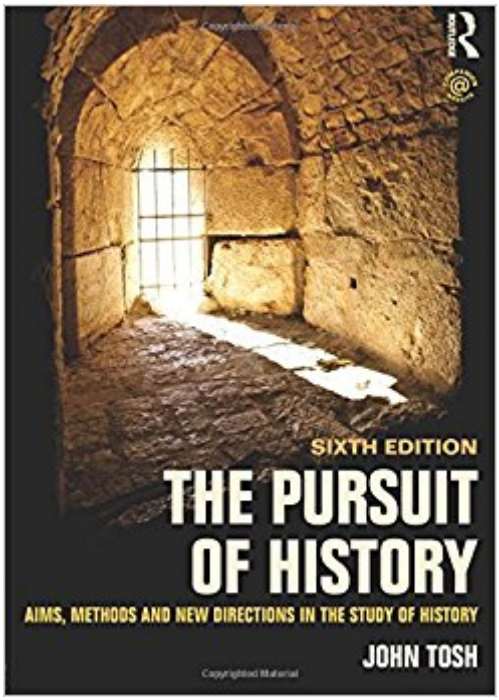
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The Pursuit Of History: Aims, Methods And New Directions In The Study Of History



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Synopsis

This classic introduction to the study of history invites the reader to stand back and consider some of its most fundamental questions - what is the point of studying history? How do we know about the past? Does an objective historical truth exist and can we ever access it? In answering these central questions, John Tosh argues that, despite the impression of fragmentation created by postmodernism in recent years, history is a coherent discipline which still bears the imprint of its nineteenth-century origins. Consistently clear-sighted, he provides a lively and compelling guide to a complex and sometimes controversial subject, while making his readers vividly aware of just how far our historical knowledge is conditioned by the character of the sources and the methods of the historians who work on them. The sixth edition has been revised and updated with key new material including: - a brand new chapter on public history - sections on digitised sources and historical controversy - discussion of topics including transnational history and the nature of the archive - an expanded range of examples and case studies - a comprehensive companion website providing valuable supporting material, study questions and a bank of primary sources. Lucid and engaging, this edition retains all the user-friendly features that have helped to make this book a favourite with both students and lecturers, including marginal glosses, illustrations and suggestions for further reading. Along with its companion website, this is an essential guide to the theory and practice of history.

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Customer Reviews

Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“An excellent introduction to methodology in history which will be read with advantage

by historians at any stage of their development.Ã¢â ¬Â• History Ã¢â ¬Å“Can easily be handled by the general reader wanting to know what is happening to history today.Ã¢â ¬Â• British Book News "This exceptionally insightful book makes the study of history a joy to read. Tosh maps out the major questions and developments in historiography with extraordinary clarity, guiding the reader on debates and methods of research in concise and informative ways. His continued attention to up-dating the book without doubt makes it a critical text for undergraduates and an essential resource for postgraduates and scholars." Catherine Dewhirst, University of Southern Queensland, Australia "John ToshÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book is the most useful introduction to recent historiography now available. It surveys major trends and achievements more clearly and concisely than its main competitors, and is an excellent and easy resource for contextualising other historical writings of all kinds. It can add a great deal to studentsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ understanding of historical writing." Nicholas Karn, University of Southampton, UK "The Pursuit of History has many strengths. It is extremely well-written and lucid. It strikes a very nice balance between tracing historiography, delineating historical methodology, and discussing the major historiographical developments over the last few decades. Comprehensive, insightful and conversant with the latest historiographical currents, it is essential reading in any undergraduate or graduate theory and method course."

very instructive book. it will definitely recommend it to others

This was required for a graduate level history course, and while informative, it’s more an undergraduate’s speed. (I’m thinking an "Intro to History" kind of class for majors). At the graduate school level, the student should know all this stuff. It’s interesting none-the-less.Stars knocked off for the horrible vocabulary words on the sides of each page. They are incredibly distracting and have nothing to do with the argument of each section. For instance, a section about questioning "normal," the highlighted term is "abolition of slavery," which wasn’t the point of the section, it was merely an example.

This book reminds you of what you should be looking for in sources, and how to find it out. In fact, I wish this was a required book way early in my studies.

this is a very detailed history book which is appropriate for an advanced undergraduate or graduate student. I highly recommend this book.

For a graduate history course, I did not sell it back. Historiography by a highly respected historian.It is neither light reading or incomprehensible; it is an accessible and interesting book for anyone interested in history beyond what happened to who on what date,

OK, now is when you really get into the weeds on the different themes and strategies historians use to approach history. You make have to google the terms and find a better definition that will "dummy down" the terms, after you get it thought you get it and understand how it all plays in to researching history.

Like it says, this is an informative read on how to study history and the methods once used, and in use. This is certainly an educational book for those just starting to pursue an education in history and a decent pick for an introductory undergraduate course.

great value

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