

# History

*Christ* bespeaks not simply the person of Jesus, but his kingdom and lordship of the whole earth as well ... Not only is Christ the meaning of history, but nothing and no one else possibly can be. And if of history, then he is the meaning of man's cultural mission as well.

Michael W. Kelley, *The Impulse of Power*, p 4

We cannot combat the errors of our time if we cannot recognize kindred errors in the past .... In every era, the modernisms of the day have reshaped men's views of the Bible when in fact the Bible requires us to reshape our world, our times, and ourselves in terms of the word of God.

Rousas J. Rushdoony, cited in Michael W. Kelley, *The Impulse to Power*, p. 1

Today Western culture stands perilously close to the brink of collapse. If we should wish to know the reasons, we shall have to reckon with the ethical-religious dichotomy that lies at the center of Western man's endeavor. Moreover, it has long been present at the core of Western culture. The terms which best describe these antithetical viewpoints have been and remain **Christianity** and **Humanism**. No others adequately explain the clash of viewpoints that lie at the root of Western civilization and can account for the strong polarity between what men today have come to value or detest in Western civilization.

Michael W. Kelley, *The Impulse of Power*, p 13

How has Western man developed culture? Upon what standard has he sought to erect it? There are but two options available: that which comes from God in His revealed Word, or that which arises from man's sin-darkened imagination. No mixture or confusion is possible at any time. All man's attempts at synthesis have inevitably led him to reject the *former* for the exclusive sake of the *latter*.

Michael W. Kelley, *Impulse to Power*, p. 17

Since 1860, there has been a major shift from absolute to process philosophy. That shift was first evident in Darwinism which emerged out of the conclusion that progress was taking place. It was fed from the presupposition that man is at the center and that man progresses. It is a faith that explains progress based upon man as the center who himself is in a process.

Glenn R. Martin (1935-2004)

The ascription of the power and the glory to the triune God placed Christianity in conflict with not only the Roman Empire but every other realm it entered into.

Rousas J. Rushdoony, *The Foundations of Social Order: Studies in the Creeds and Councils of the Early Church*, p. 38

... the early councils [first five centuries of church history – JN] had as their primary purpose the defense and establishment of *truth, not unity*. Unity had to be established on the foundation of truth, not truth as a product of unity. *The councils came together for the purpose of conflict, the battle of truth against error*; and any unity on other than the whole truth of Scripture was anathema.

Rousas J. Rushdoony, *The Foundations of Social Order: Studies in the Creeds and Councils of the Early Church*, pp. 19-20

People who believe that the opposition, however entrenched and numerically and politically strong, is merely a temporary cloud in God's universe, will not be readily discouraged or deflected in their steady movement towards power and dominion. The enemy had only a silent god; the orthodox party had the self-revealing God. The enemy had the power of Caesar behind it; the orthodox believers had the power of the triune God behind them.

Rousas J. Rushdoony, *The Foundations of Social Order: Studies in the Creeds and Councils of the Early Church*, p. 31

# History

There is no safety for honest men but by believing all possible evil of evil men.

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, p. 249

The study of history is a powerful antidote to contemporary arrogance. It is humbling to discover how many of our glib assumptions, which seem to us novel and plausible, have been tested before, not once but many times and in innumerable guises; and discovered to be, at great human cost, wholly false.

Paul Johnson, *The Quotable Paul Johnson: A Topical Compilation of His Wit, Wisdom and Satire*, p. 138

I wonder what radical feminists make of the fact that it was men who created the rule of “women and children first” when it came to rescuing people from life-threatening emergencies.

Thomas Sowell, *Random Thoughts* ([www.jewishworldreview.com](http://www.jewishworldreview.com)), 29 July 2008

Despite people who speak glibly of “earlier and simpler times,” all that makes earlier times seem simpler is our ignorance of their complexities.

Thomas Sowell, *Random Thoughts* ([www.jewishworldreview.com](http://www.jewishworldreview.com)), 5 September 2007

I am so old that I can remember a Democrat, at his inauguration as President, say of our enemies: “We dare not tempt them with weakness.”

Thomas Sowell, *Random Thoughts* ([www.jewishworldreview.com](http://www.jewishworldreview.com)), 1 May 2007

Some people seem to think that we live in more “liberated” times, when all that has happened is that one set of taboos has been replaced by another and more intolerantly enforced set of taboos.

Thomas Sowell, *Random Thoughts* ([www.jewishworldreview.com](http://www.jewishworldreview.com)), 9 January 2007

My brother recalled his younger days down South during the Jim Crow era, when he had a job working late. After work, he had a long walk back home in the middle of the night. But, he says, “When I got to the black neighborhood, I felt safe!” That speaks volumes about what has happened since then.

Thomas Sowell, *Random Thoughts* ([www.jewishworldreview.com](http://www.jewishworldreview.com)), 30 November 2005

People who think that they don’t owe anything to anybody should read David McCullough’s outstanding new book “1776,” to see what hell other people went through to create the freedom that we enjoy and abuse today.

Thomas Sowell, *Random Thoughts* ([www.jewishworldreview.com](http://www.jewishworldreview.com)), 30 November 2005

Not only does the passage of time produce knowledge, it also produces ignorance. You would have to be about 50 years old to remember what the situation was like before *Roe v. Wade*. As the passage of time removes people with first-hand knowledge of an earlier era, they are replaced by people ignorant of those times and therefore easy targets for demagogues.

Thomas Sowell, *Random Thoughts* ([www.jewishworldreview.com](http://www.jewishworldreview.com)), 21 September 2005

General Omar Bradley said this of Winston Churchill after the Allied victory in Europe, “His speeches were worth an army.”

James C. Humes, *The Wit and Wisdom of Winston Churchill*, p. xvii-xviii

[On the impact of the Wesleyan revival on 19<sup>th</sup> century England] Of the faith which enabled a man to abandon the cherished habits of a lifetime, and to go forth ready to spend and be spent in his Master’s service, ... which made the selfish man self-denying, the discontented happy, the worldling spiritually minded, the drunkard sober, the sensual chaste, the liar truthful, the thief honest, the proud humble, the godless godly, the thriftless thrifty—we can only judge by the fruits which it bore. That such fruits were borne is surely undeniable.

J. H. Overton, cited in J. Wesley Brady, *This Freedom—Whence?* p. 96

# History

Scotland has since the Reformation sent more saints to heaven than any country in Europe of the same population.

David Bogue, *Discourses on the Millennium* (1818), p. 362.

The Apostles' Creed pits the world's only history-grounded faith against all others.

Rousas J. Rushdoony (1916-2001), *The Foundations of Social Order: Studies in the Creeds and Councils of the Early Church* (1968)

It is impossible to write about the history of modern western culture without writing about Martin Luther. The idea that we should stand up for things that we believe in. The idea that every person is precious in the sight of God. These are things that we take for granted, but these are things that Luther had to fight for.

Alister E. McGrath

God writes the history of the world with the pen of His people.

James Nickel

A student asked me today why I include so much history in my math teaching. "Why don't you just teach math?" This question was a timely teaching moment. It shows that compartmentalization is a common malady. I answered, "To include history is important because history, seen from Christian eyes, reflects God's march of providence." Hence, every subject must be understood historically to be understood truly.

James Nickel

According to Civil War historian Shelby Foote (1916-2005), no one really knows what the "Rebel yell" sounded like (close to "fox hunt yip mixed with a banshee squall" screamed while running). According to one Yankee veteran, it created a "peculiar corkscrew sensation up your backbone" when you heard it and "if you claim you heard it and weren't scared, you never heard it."

We are all sufferers from history, but the paranoid is a double sufferer, since he is afflicted not only by the real world, with the rest of us, but by his fantasies as well.

Richard Hofstadter, "The Paranoid Style in American Politics" (*Harper's Magazine*, November 1964, pp. 77-86)

History is littered with the wreckage of states and cultures which warred against God.

Rousas J. Rushdoony, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. 1, p. 454

History has never been dominated by majorities, but only by dedicated minorities who stand unconditionally on their faith.

Rousas J. Rushdoony

We cannot be the people of God if we trust Him as an Occasional God, worshipping Him at times, while serving man and pragmatism mostly. All of history is a great shaking of the nations by the God of all dominion, to remove all the things which are shakeable, so that only those things which cannot be shaken, because they are of Him, may remain (Heb. 12:25-29).

Rousas J. Rushdoony, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. 1, p. 237

In history, however, as in all scientific endeavors, the facts never just speak for themselves - they are interpreted through colored lenses.

Michael Shermer & Alex Grobman, *Denying History*, p. 40

... history is cluttered with the wreckage of nations that became indifferent to God, and died.

Whittaker Chambers, *Witness*, p. 17

# History

The twentieth century gave rise to one of the greatest and most distressing paradoxes of human history: that the greatest intolerance and violence of that century were practiced by those [communists and Nazis] who believed that religion caused intolerance and violence.

Alister McGrath, *The Twilight of Atheism*, p. 230.

... a refugee who suffered in the 1940s from both Nazi and communist oppression reported to me that many or most Jews and conservatives were the easiest victims because of the inability to break with the past. The wise course, he said, on occupation of a country by a totalitarian power is to walk out of the house as if on a stroll, carrying nothing. Tickets are then purchased for short trips only, repeated ones, until near a border where escape is possible. Those who tried to leave with suitcases, or even a briefcase (full of money) or a padded coat, were quickly and easily picked up. Only those who left all behind them, shut the door on their house as though planning to set out for ten minutes only, normally escaped. The ability to escape required an awareness of sunk costs, leaving the dead to bury the dead [Matthew 8:22 - JN].

Rousas J. Rushdoony, *Law and Society*, p. 213

Today, the Holy Spirit is troubling the waters of history, as He has since Pentecost. That troubling is conviction and judgment for the ungodly. Churchmen who draw back from the troubled waters remain impotent. Those who in Christ and in the power of the Spirit move into the troubled waters alone know the power of His salvation and victory.

Rousas J. Rushdoony, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. 1, p. 323