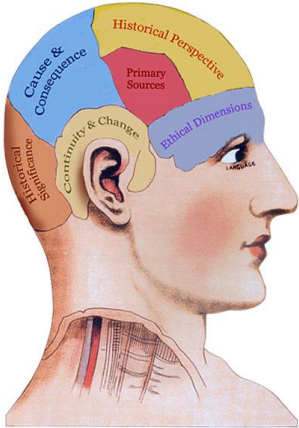


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FOUR KEY HISTORICAL CONCEPTS



CONTINUITY AND CHANGE - HOW CAN WE MAKE SENSE OF THE COMPLEX FLOW OF HISTORY?

1. Continuity and change are interwoven – they exist together.
2. Chronologies – timelines – are a good place to start. Organize the past into sections helps(eras, centuries, decades, dynasties, etc)
3. Change is a process with varying paces and pattern.
4. Turning points are moment when the process of change shifts direction or pace
5. Change is not always constant, or predictable.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE – HOW DO WE DETERMINE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EVENT?

1. PEOPLE AT THE TIME THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT
2. IT AFFECTED A LOT OF PEOPLE
3. IT AFFECTED PEOPLE DEEPLY
4. IT AFFECTED PEOPLE FOR A LONG TIME
5. IT STILL AFFECTS ATTITUDES OR BELIEFS TODAY
6. IT LED TO OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS
7. IT HELPS US UNDERSTAND OUR WORLD AND OURSELVES

***Historical significance can change over time, and from group to group.

CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE – WHY DO EVENTS HAPPEN, AND WHAT ARE THEIR IMPACTS?

1. Change is driven by multiple causes.
2. Historic events result in multiple consequences.
3. Some causes are more influential than others.

Types of causes:

Immediate	background	long term
intentional	unintentional	major
minor	natural	accidental
long-lasting	short-lasting	

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – HOW CAN WE BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE OF THE PAST?

1. Consider your views about what happened (a current perspective)
2. Examine how people at the time reacted to the event and how would it be different from your own.
3. Avoid presentism – placing present ideas and values on events and people in the past.
4. Consider the historical context of an event – what was happening at the time? What were the main beliefs and worldview of the time?
5. Different groups and people from the past may have different perspectives and ideas on past events.