

why study history?

And it may well be that my history will seem less easy to read because of the absence in it of a romantic element. It will be enough for me, however, if these words of mine are judged useful by those who want to understand clearly the events which happened in the past and which (human nature being what it is) will, at some time or other and in much the same ways, be repeated in the future. My work is not a piece of writing designed to meet the taste of an immediate public, but was done to last forever.

--Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War (late 400s BC)

Answering a few questions can help us understand Thucydides' point here.

- (A) Thucydides said that he hoped his work would be useful for those who want to do what?
- (B) Did he believe that these events (or events very similar) would never happen again? Or that they would be repeated in the future?
- (C) What reason did Thucydides give for his answer to (B)?
- (D) Because of these answers, would his work benefit *only* the immediate generation?