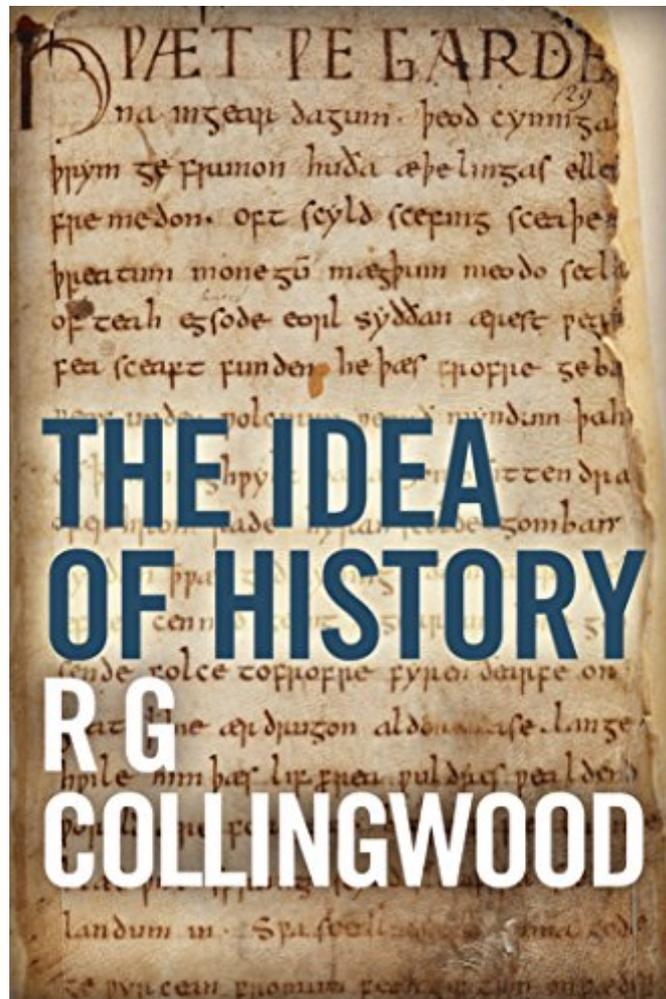


The book was found

# The Idea Of History



## Synopsis

The name "philosophy of history" was invented in the eighteenth century by Voltaire, who meant by it no more than critical or scientific history, a type of historical thinking in which the historian made up his mind for himself instead of repeating whatever stories he found in old books. For many years before his death in 1943, R. G. Collingwood, who was both a Professor of Philosophy at Oxford and a practicing historian, was engaged in what he intended as a major contribution to the philosophy of history. *The Idea of History*, first published in 1946, was this contribution. It became a canonical text, and linked the practise of philosophical thought with the job of the historian to place themselves in the minds of those men whose deeds he was placing into a context. Four parts of the book describe how the modern idea of history has developed. Collingwood begins with the Greeks and Romans, writing of Livy, Tacitus, Herodotus and Thucydides, then progressing to the early modern period throughout Europe and focussing in turn on each of the main centres of historical thought: Italy, Germany, France and England. A final section consists of a number of essays on such subjects as the nature of history, historical method, historical evidence, and progress, which show a great depth in study which is written in engaging and methodical prose. "The wit of [Collingwood's] learning and the many-sidedness of his gifts as a philosopher, scholar and artist are manifest...an example of scholarship and depth presented with ease and grace." Hans Kohn, *New York Times* "A pleasure to read, a first-hand, enlightening, and intellectually stimulating treatment of a philosophically important subject...It has been a long time since I have encountered a contemporary work of which as much could properly be said...There is much to be learned from it." Arthur E. Murphy, *The Philosophical Review*

R. G. Collingwood (1889-1943) was a philosopher and historian, and also worked on books concerning archaeology. Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com). Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

## Book Information

File Size: 3568 KB

Print Length: 368 pages

Publisher: Albion Press (October 21, 2015)

Publication Date: October 21, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0170FIBK8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #37,487 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Historical Study > Study & Teaching #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Historical Study > Reference #16 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > History

## Customer Reviews

History is not a scientific process of cutting and pasting events into a sequence based upon testimony. History is an active mental evaluation of what took place and why it took place. It is the mind considering its thoughts. Collingwood begins with an introduction to history and its philosophy. History is more than events. It involves thoughts. "Philosophy is reflective. The philosophizing mind never simply thinks about an object, it always, while thinking about any object, thinks also about its own thought about that object" (1). This philosophy of history goes back to the Greeks who placed mathematics at the center of the picture (4). Since that time there have been "two great constructive ages of European history": the Middle Ages and the 16-19th centuries. The Middle ages were concerned with theology. The 16th-19th centuries were concerned with the laying down of the foundations for natural science. Collingwood asks four questions about history and then seeks to answer them with answers that the populous would term acceptable. What is history? What is it about? How does it proceed? What is it for? His answers are: 1. History is a kind of research or inquiry (science) (9) 2. seeking to find out answers about human actions done in the past 3. accomplished by the interpretation of evidence 4. for the furthering of human self knowledge. He then moves into an evaluation of historical thought beginning with the Greeks. Originally history was merely myth and theological. It was a theocratic history - intent on understanding the god in question (14-15). "Myth, on the contrary, is not concerned with human actions at all" (15). There are no human characters, only gods. Scientific history arose and took prominence with Herodotus.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Water Garden Idea Book (Taunton Home Idea Books) All New Backyard Idea Book (Taunton's Idea Book Series) New Backyard Idea Book (Taunton Home Idea Books) Patios & Walkways Idea Book (Taunton Home Idea Books) Tile Idea Book (Idea Books) Pool Idea Book (Taunton Home Idea Books) History: Human History in 50 Events: From Ancient Civilizations to Modern Times (World History, History Books, People History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 1) History: British History in 50 Events: From First Immigration to Modern Empire (English History, History Books, British History Textbook) (History in 50 Events Series Book 11) The Idea of History A History of Vector Analysis: The Evolution of the Idea of a Vectorial System A History of Vector Analysis: The Evolution of the Idea of a Vectorial System (Dover Books on Mathematics) Species: A History of the Idea (Species and Systematics) Bob and Larry in the Case of the Missing Patience (I Can Read! / Big Idea Books / VeggieTales) Idea to iPhone: The essential guide to creating your first app for the iPhone and iPad From Idea to App: Creating iOS UI, animations, and gestures (Voices That Matter) A Compendium of Curiosities by Tim Holtz Idea-ology, 76 Page Book, TH92826 The Water Gardening Idea Book: How to Build, Plant, and Maintain Ponds, Fountains, and Basins The Complete Home Decorating Idea Book: Thousands of Ideas for Windows, Walls, Ceilings and Floors Built-In Furniture: A Gallery of Design Ideas (Idea Book) The Ultimate Bridal Shower Idea Book: How to Have a Fun, Fabulous, and Memorable Party

[Dmca](#)