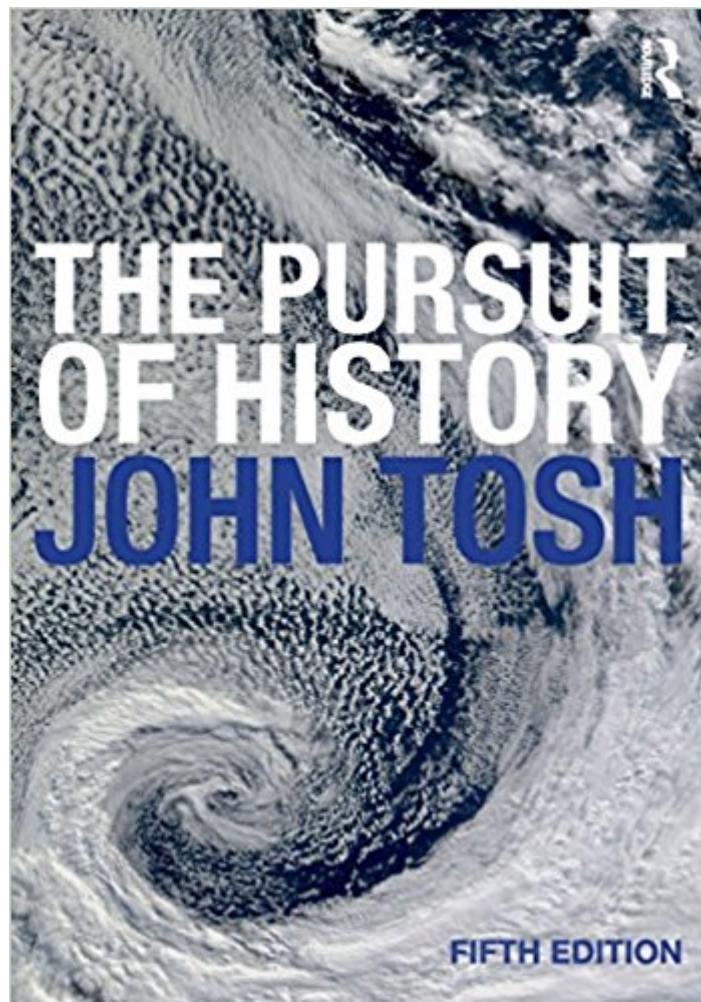


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The Pursuit Of History



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 fifth edition has been revised and updated throughout, with the addition of new sections on: Global history Comparative history Postcolonialism Women's and gender history Oral history and memory Lucid and engaging, this new 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, suggested further reading and boxed guides to key events and people.

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Customer Reviews

An excellent introduction to methodology in history which will be read with advantage by historians at any stage of their development. • History Can easily be handled by the general

An excellent introduction to methodology in history which will be read with advantage by historians at any stage of their development; History Tosh writes clearly and pungently...a very satisfactory as well as stimulating vade-mecum for all who work at history; Times Higher Education Supplement 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 fifth edition has been revised and updated throughout, with the addition of new sections on: Global history Comparative history Postcolonialism And substantially revised sections on: Women's and gender history Oral history and memory Cultural History Lucid and engaging, this new edition retains all the user-friendly features that have helped to make this book a favourite for students and lecturers, including marginal glosses, illustrations, suggested further reading and boxed guides to key events and people. John Tosh is Professor of History at Roehampton University and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He is the author of several works on historiography, notably *Why History Matters* (2008) and *Historians on History* (2nd ed., 2008). A

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 may 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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