

Historiography - Development in the West

Chapter 1: Historiography - Development in the West · Topic 1

Key Concept

Ancient Greek historians like Herodotus and Thucydides pioneered systematic historical writing, focusing on events and their causes.

During the Renaissance, historians began emphasising evidence-based research and critical analysis of historical sources.

Modern historiography incorporates diverse methodologies, including social, economic, and cultural history, moving beyond just political events.

Understanding historiography's development helps us appreciate how historical interpretation and methods have changed over time.

Quick Revision Notes

- Herodotus, Thucydides: pioneered historical writing.
- Focused on events, causes systematically.
- Renaissance: evidence-based research emphasised.
- Critical analysis of sources became key.
- Modern historiography: diverse methodologies.
- Includes social, economic, cultural history.
- Goes beyond just political events.
- This shows evolving historical interpretation.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Herodotus and his historical writings.
- 2 Discuss how Renaissance changed historical research.
- 3 Discuss what modern historiography includes.
- 4 Research a modern historical methodology.
- 5 Compare ancient and modern historical writing.
- 6 Explain historiography's evolution in your own words.