UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY

UNIT STRUCTURE

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- 1.4.1 Relation of History with Geography
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1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to–

- understand the meaning of history,
- discuss about the scope of history,
- analyse the relationship of history with other social sciences,

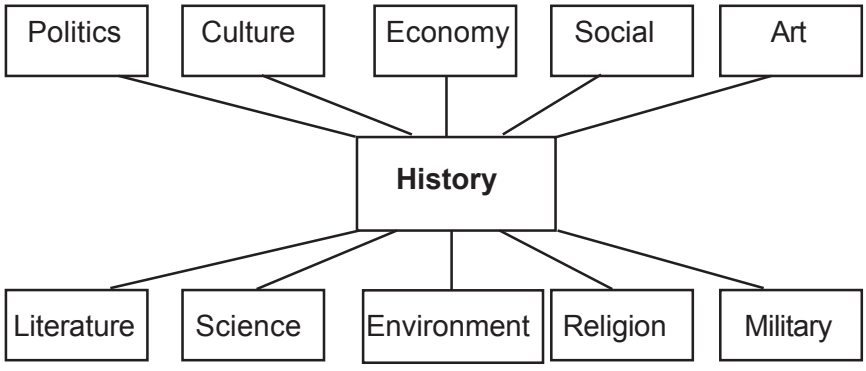
1.2 INTRODUCTION

Dear learners, this is the 1st unit of this course. This is an introductory unit. History is one of the oldest subjects of our study. According to E.H.Carr, 'history is an unending dialogue between the past and the present'. The term "history" has now come to be applied to accounts of events that are narrated in a chronological order, and deal with the past of mankind. Generally history means study of our past. It is not confined to any specific area of our society. It includes every aspect of human beings. That may be of political, cultural, social, religious, economic or whatever else. Now in this

unit we will discuss the meaning of history, its scope and its relationship between other social sciences.

1.3 MEANING AND SCOPE OF HISTORY

Do you know the meaning of history? The English word 'history' is derived from the Greek word '*historia*' which means 'inquary', knowledge acquired by investigation or information. Greek historian Herodotus is called as the father of history because he laid the foundation of modern study of history. History is the study of past human events and activities. The study of history has sometimes been classified as part of humanities and at other times as part of the Social Sciences. It can also be seen as a bridge between those two broad areas, incorporating methodologies from both. Earlier the subject matter of history was confined to the chronological study of the kings. In the 20th century, French historian Fernand Braudel revolutionized the study of history, by using such outside disciplines as economics, anthropology, and geography, and in the study of global history. We can understand the present scope of history from the following diagram.



Let Us Know



Fernand Braudel and Annales School: Annales School is a group of historians associated with a style of historiography developed by French historians in the 20th century to stress long-term social history. It is named after a scholarly journal of it. Fernand

Braudel was a France historian and a leader of Annales School. His main works were, *The Mediterranean*, *Civilization and Capitalism* and unfinished *Identity of Frence*. Braudel has been considered one of the greatest of the modern historians who have emphasized the role of large-scale socioeconomic factors in the making and writing of history.

1.4 RELATIONSHIP OF HISTORY WITH OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES

There is a close relationship of history with other social sciences, such as anthropology, sociology, economics, geography and political science. Now in this sub-point we will discuss about these relationships.

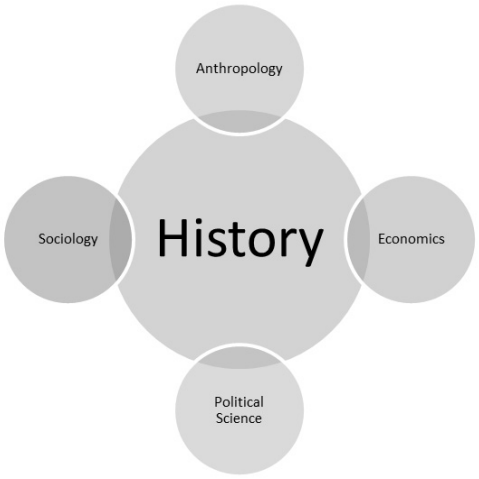


Figure- 1.1
Diagram showing the relationship of History with other Social Sciences

1.4.1 History and Geography

History and Geography have very close relations with each other. Human experiences are encompassed in a broader field of study called history. Whereas in geography, the related concerns are narrower, including focusing on interactions of humans with nature or physical environment around. The relation between geography

and history is close since two fundamental dimension of a similar phenomenon are represented in them. It is from the perspective of time that human experience is viewed in history. In comparison, geography is viewed from the perspective of space. Hence both are interlocked in dimensions of space and time in a kind of symbiotic dance. One dimension affects the other constantly and hence history and geography always affect each other. Region, place and location are the key geographical concepts that are inseparably tied to the major historical ideas including events, period and time. In tandem, the subjects history and geography help learners to understand how across time periods, places and events have affected each other.

1.4.2 History and Sociology

History and Sociology are intimately related to each other. Both of them are connected with the study of man in society but they differ only in their approach. Sociology cannot be separated from History and History cannot be isolated from sociology. That is why Professor G.E. Howard remarked “History is the past Sociology and Sociology is the present History”. History is mainly concerned with past events. It is a systematic record of the story of mankind. History presents a chronological account of past events of the human society. Sociology depends upon History in order to study past events and situations. History of cultures and institutions is helpful in the understanding of sociology. In order to understand the past society and activities, we have to take the help of History. Sociology concerned with the study of the historical development of human society. It studies ancient customs, modes of living, various stages of life and past social institutions through the historical analysis. In the same way, Sociology provides social background of the study of History. History is now being studied from the sociological viewpoint. History supplies facts, which are interpreted and coordinated by the sociologists. The historians need social

background for writing and analyzing history and this is provided by the sociologists. The study of History would be meaningless without the appreciation of sociological significance. History becomes meaningful in the social content.



Figure- 1.2

Picture showing the relationship of history with its society

Source: Google image

1.4.3 History and Anthropology

Anthropology is the study of human during the past and the present, that draws and builds upon knowledge from the social sciences and biological sciences as well as the natural sciences. Anthropologists examine social patterns and practices across cultures, with a special interest in how people live in particular places and how they organize, govern, and create meaning. A hallmark of sociocultural anthropology is its concern with similarities and differences, both within and among societies, and its attention to race, sexuality, class, gender, and nationality.

History and anthropology are both related to human actions. Social anthropology discusses human actions which cause social events. History presents a description of these events. Anthropology studies the origin of civilization and culture and reactions of evolution, etc. On the other hand, history studies particular civilization or culture on the basis of a particular period. Thus there is a cordial relationship between history and anthropology.

1.4.4 History and Economics

History and Economics are closely related to each other as activities of man in society are intimately related with the economic matters. It studies economic activity to gain an understanding of the processes that govern the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services in an exchange economy. Economy plays a major role in social change and human evaluation process as well. As history studies about human past and process of social change therefore they have an intimate relationship between them. According to Marxian historical materialism, economy is the basic factor behind any social change. History related to economics because the economic systems people chosen in the past and their wants affected their decisions. By understanding how economic incentives and factors influenced our ancestors, we will understand how history operated and the events in history made sense. Mode of economy i.e. currency (in various forms like coin, rupee etc.) is one of the most important source material for the study of history.

1.4.5 History and Political science

The relationship between history and political science is very close and intimate. John Seeley expressed this relationship as 'history without political science has no fruit, and political science without history has no root.'

History is the records of past events. It provides raw materials to political science. Political science tells us not only what the state is but also what it has been. The study of the state as it has been done only with the help of history. Historical study is essential for understanding political thoughts, movements and institutions. They are the product of history and in order to understand them fully one must necessarily know the process of their evolution- how they have become what they are, and to what extent they have responded to their original purposes. All our political institutions have a historical

basis as they depict the wisdom of generations. History is a vast store house of facts and information from which political science collects data for its generalization.



Check Your Progress

Answer the following questions:

Q 1: What is meaning of Greek word '*historia*'?

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Q 2: Who introduced a revolutionary change in the study of history?

……

Q 3: Who said 'history without political science has no fruit, and political science without history has no root'?

……

Q 4: Who said 'history is the past Sociology and Sociology is the present history'?

……

Q 5: What is the basic force behind any social change in society according to the Marxian historical materialism?

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1.5 LET US SUM UP

After going through this unit, you have learnt about –

- the meaning of history,
- the developing scope of history,
- relationship of history with other social sciences like anthropology, economics, political science, sociology and geography.



1.6 FURTHER READING

1) Majumdar, R.C., Raychaudhuri, H.C., Datta, K. (1986). *An Advanced History of India.* New Delhi, Macmillan India Ltd.

2) Maiti, P.(2001): *Studies in Ancient India,* Kolkata, Shreedhar Prakashani
3) Raychaudhuri, H.C. (1972). *Political History of India.* Calcutta, University of Kolkata.
4) Sharma, L.P. (1981). *Ancient History of India (pre-historic Age to 1200 A.D.).* New Delhi, Vikas Publication House Pvt. Ltd.
5) Tripathi, Ramashankar (1999). *History of Ancient India.* Delhi, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Pvt. Ltd.



1.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer to the question No.1: Inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation or information.

Answer to the question No.2: Fernand Braudel

Answer to the question No.3: John Seeley.

Answer to the question No.4: Professor G.E. Howard

Answer to the question No.5 : Economy



1.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions (Answer each question within 50 words)

Q.1: Who is regarded as the father of history?

Q.2: Name the historian who revolutionized the study of history?

Q.3: What is the meaning of word 'history' ?

Q.4: From which language the word history is derived?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question within 150 words)

Q.1: Write a short note on the meaning of history.

Q.2: Write a short note on the relationship of history with anthropology.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in between 300-500 words)

Q.1: Discuss the relationship of history with other social sciences.

Q.2: Analyse the importance of studying history as a subject.

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